

December 27, 2021

Dr. Frahm and the TEPS Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the 2021 *Midwest Clinic: An International Band and Orchestra Conference* in Chicago, Illinois. It was a worthwhile conference that was attended by over fifteen thousand band and orchestra directors from around the world.

The conference is broken down into two parts: concert sessions and clinic sessions (including rehearsal labs). Each ensemble chosen to perform a concert at this conference (via a rigorous audition process) is among the finest in the country. This year, due to the COVID pandemic, most performing student ensembles were from the state of Texas. I attended concerts by the Mansfield Wind Symphony (adult), the North Harden High School Wind Symphony, Imani Winds (adult woodwind quintet), The United States Army Field Band, the Keller High School Wind Ensemble, the Leander High School Wind Ensemble, the Dallas Winds (adult), the Eastern Wind Symphony (adult), and the Wakeland High School Wind Symphony. Each ensemble, for the most part, performed at a very high level of competence. From these performances I was able to select previously unknown music that is appropriate to program with my own ensemble at Clarence High School. I was also able to gauge the ability level of the bands in the Clarence School District compared to those heard at this conference.

Top musicians in the fields of music education and music performance gave the clinic sessions. I attended clinics dealing with composer discussions, instrumental pedagogy, repertoire selection, and chamber music. I found most of these sessions useful as they reinforced or added information to my knowledge base.

The *Midwest Clinic* is the premier conference in the world for instrumental music teachers. Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to attend. I feel it was extremely worthwhile for my professional development, and for the development of my students.

Respectfully Submitted,

Louis C. Vitello