

December 30, 2018

Dr. Hicks and the TEPS Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the 2018 *Midwest Clinic: An International Band and Orchestra Conference* in Chicago, Illinois. It was a worthwhile conference that was attended by over seventeen 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. I attended concerts by the Ronald Reagan High School Wind Ensemble (San Antonio, TX), The Wind Symphony of Clovis (Clovis, CA), the Centennial High School Wind Ensemble (Howard County, MD), the Cy-Fair High School Symphonic Band (Cypress, TX), the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Wind Symphony (Parkland, FL), The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own" Herald Trumpets, and a rehearsal by the Texas Tech University Symphonic Wind Ensemble (Lubbock, TX). 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 band 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