

MINUTES – MJCCBA Meeting, December 12, 2014 (Winter 2014)

1:30 pm, MBA State Band Clinic, Natchez, Mississippi

Meeting called to order by President Ed Girling.

Members Present: Dr. Kerry Simon of Coahoma; Shaw Furlow, Juanita Proffitt, and Chris Warren of Co-Lin; Ed Girling of ECCC; Chris King of EMCC; Jeff Brown Jr. of Holmes; Jeff Brown Sr. and Lindsey Key of JCJC; Eddie Buggs of Mississippi Delta; Mike Bass, Dr. Kyle Hill, and Archie Rawls of Pearl River; and Dr. Jason Mathena of Southwest.

The prayer was given by Juanita Proffitt.

In his opening monologue, Mr. Girling recognized the absence of Vice President Andrew Dale of Southwest and Jonathan Helmick of JCJC as they were both being hooded for their doctorate that day at USM. He asked for volunteers to keep notes for the meeting. The response was laughter, so Hunter Corhern of ECCC would transcribe notes following the meeting, who was absent due to illness in the family.

The minutes were presented to the Association. Dr. Hill asked for a point of clarification that his heart attack did not coincide with the implementation of the Scooba Rule as might be implied in the minutes. Shaw Furlow motioned that the minutes be approved with a second and unanimous approval.

OLD BUSINESS

INTER-COLLEGIATE BAND CLINIC

All is currently on point for the clinic scheduled at USM for February 5-7. Andrew Dale had confirmed by email before the meeting that a block of rooms were reserved at the typical location, the Baymont Inn, for a slightly higher price of \$84 per room. The Hilton Garden Inn was significantly more expensive in the same area. Girling did speak with Dr. Mohamad Schuman of USM and confirmed that the ballroom had been booked for the day before the clinic so as to avoid potential conflicts. The schedule would remain the same, and ECCC would have a truck of percussion equipment for the clinic.

The tabulation sheets had been worked on and will be ready for the audition.

Girling asked the Association whether everyone wanted to select their own sight reading or that he provide sight reading for the auditions. After minor discussion, the general consensus was that everyone would bring their own sight reading.

JAZZ BAND CLINIC

Girling started by stating that his interpretation of the clinic is that it should be done for the kids. Therefore, it should involve the most kids possible, with two bands. He presented two options for the operation of the clinic:

- Two days during the week (Wednesday-Thursday) with a Thursday night concert that could be used for recital credit for Music Appreciation students and offered as part of the host college's fine art series; or
- A weekend clinic (Friday-Saturday) with a concert Saturday afternoon that most likely would have an audience of parents and directors.

Other options to consider were to offer the clinic as part of a fine art series, as many colleges have implemented recently; whether to host at one of our schools or at a major university, with the potential for the host school's jazz band opening for the clinic;

Discussion followed with the following concerns:

- If hosting at one of our schools, lodging would be an issue as many of our towns do not have adequate hotel rooms. The nearest towns would be a considerable drive to the school, which would cause additional travel costs. However, potential positive is the host school's incorporation of the clinic as part of their fine art series and footing some bills.
- However, if using a university, there would be potential additional costs for renting of rehearsal facilities and potential equipment as well as availability.
- Some schools are cracking down on the number of official absences students accrue, which limits opportunities for some students to travel during the week.
- The instrumentation of the bands could either be standard instrumentation (with 5 trumpets) or non-standard instrumentation, depending on the choice of the clinician.
- Auditions could be a potential issue concerning the more specialized positions (rhythm section, bari sax) as some years there are many and some years there are not. Directors could provide lists of their best students, but who is to say that someone's 10th person is worse than someone's 3rd?
- Would the band be split evenly (odd-even bands) or from top to bottom (1st-2nd)?

Following discussion, general consensus leaned toward a Friday afternoon-Saturday clinic with the concert occurring no later than 3:00 PM, with a top-bottom order of students. Auditions would be held Friday, a reading session that night, and then heavy work done Saturday morning.

Shaw Furlow made a recommendation to Ed Girling that he put together a final proposal to be approved by the directors so that it can be approved by the presidents of the community colleges. If it is done quickly enough, it could be done this spring.

Girling asked for potential clinicians, and the immediate consensus was on Todd Hill of Murray State University in Kentucky. Girling said he would present results at the next meeting.

AUDITION MUSIC

Girling reviewed the explanation of copyright rules as being very vague, but that as far as he could tell, a short unidentified excerpt could be posted on the website and not be considered a violation. Dr. Kyle Hill said that was his viewpoint as well when they last discussed this issue. The percussion music are fairly famous works that have been posted on the MJCCBA website for years without repercussion.

Girling asked that lesson teachers should send excerpts for the auditions to him. Help would be particularly necessary in the woodwinds. The excerpts should be eight bars of technical and eight bars of lyrical work.

NEW BUSINESS

ELECTIONS

Girling announced that a nominating committee had chosen Dr. Jonathan Helmick for the vacant position of Secretary. He had accepted the nomination before the meeting, but was not present due to Commencement ceremonies. The Association unanimously approved his appointment as secretary.

JUDGING ASSIGNMENTS

Girling stated that the judging assignments had been covered and that Shane Sprayberry would help contact people from the Hinds area to assist in filling holes. Kenny Myrick of Mississippi Gulf Coast had agreed to travel to judge clarinets for the clinic. The plan is to still split the percussion auditions into snare, timpani, and mallets, and the euphonium and tubas into two separate rooms. Girling asked that anyone who was not planning on attending to contact him so that all positions can be filled.

HALFTIME RULE

At this point, Ed Girling asked if there was any new business from the floor. Shaw Furlow made a presentation and passed out the official rules of the MACJC concerning halftime procedures and a copy of the MJCCBA Constitution/ By-Laws. Furlow began by stating that as part of this association, one of our rules is to follow the official rules of the MACJC, including halftime rules. The rules, as quoted from Article XII, Section 1, Letter R, are as follows:

The half-time intermission shall be 26 minutes. Each band will be allowed 12 minutes to enter the field, perform, and exit. The game clock will be set at twelve (12) minutes to show time for each band. When only one (1) band performs the clock should be set to show twenty (20) minutes. Exceptions to this policy may be made to allow for homecoming ceremonies.

Furlow summed up the halftime as being 12-12-2 concerning minutes and added that football players are not to enter the playing field until the two-minute warm-up period. Communication with Jim Southward, the Mississippi Community College Board representative, stated that the athletic directors are responsible for explaining and implementing rules for the head coaches and football staff. Furlow recommended that the Association prepare a statement to Mr. Southward to educate athletic directors and football staffs about the rule and ensuring compliance in the future.

Furlow then brought to the attention of the Association that the 12 minutes of band performance includes entering, set-up, performance, and exiting, not just the performance itself. 30 seconds over is an acceptable amount; three to four minutes is excessive and unfair to the home band and crowd. He requested that we remind the Association, particularly younger directors who may not be aware of the rule, that they be compliant and professional and work with their own staffs and students on the quickest possible set-up and take down.

(It should be noted during his presentation that Common Core math was utilized successfully during the presentation to the thunderous applause of the Association.)

Chris Warren, Director of Admissions and Records at Co-Lin, then presented that their administration, following some lengthy halftime performances, had decided that future violators of the halftime rule would be required to perform pre-game during their next trip to Co-Lin.

Many members of the Association then discussed the wording of the rules, as it implies that the clock should be set to 12 minutes for each band and then two minutes. At most colleges, the clock operator simply sets the clock to 26 minutes and lets it run. The referee is also supposed to wait until all football players have left the field before signaling the clock to run at halftime. It was recommended to include in correspondence to Mr. Southward that he also attempt to educate referee crews about the halftime rule as many are used to high school rules.

Chris King then spoke up and recognized that time management is a major concern and that everything should be done to avoid violations. However, he also asked that we as directors be courteous and professional when problems occur, as they inevitably do. While this is a seemingly common problem in the band world, and anger and frustration may be felt, we are responsible to keep our emotions in check and be positive and encouraging when dealing with our colleagues.

Dr. Hill then urged the Association that we need to resolve this issue ourselves. If we are to ask the Presidents, athletic directors, or head football coaches to intercede, then we would be forced to live with the consequences. Unfortunately, many directors of the Association are not present today for this discussion, so we need to make sure they are aware of this rule.

In his final statement, Furlow recommended that we use a mud pit and “have it out” to settle our differences.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Kyle Hill reminded with fewer bands participating in the clinic this year that we encourage our students to participate to help bolster the numbers.

Girling entertained the motion for dismissal. Furlow motioned (TRIPLE CROWN AWARD FOR ALL THE MOTIONS TODAY!), it was seconded, and the Association gave unanimous approval.

Minutes transcribed and submitted by Hunter Corhern (ECCC)