

FUQUAY-VARINA HIGH SCHOOL BANDS - *Matt Edwards, Director*

201 Bengal Blvd.

Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina 27526

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January 6, 2017

Dear Colleague,

Enclosed you will find information regarding the Central District High School Band MPA East. The event will be held March 22-24 at Apex Friendship High School in Apex, NC. If enrollment does not warrant three days, we will limit the event to two days. You will be asked for your date preference via the online registration. If there are special circumstances regarding a need for a particular time, please be sure to let me know. I will do my best to accommodate your request, but cannot guarantee that I will be able to satisfy every request for date and time preferences. Date preferences will be granted primarily by postmark order.

We are proud to continue our clinic option in addition to the standard MPA performance at High School MPA East. A clinic session will be available for the first 18 bands who choose to participate. There will be a maximum of 6 clinic sessions per day. ***This year clinics will be available on all days of the event.*** This option is available to all high schools, both east and west. Slots will be given on a first-come, first-served basis based on completed registrations submitted prior to the February 22 deadline. If we reach the registration cap of 46 bands, 'West' bands seeking a clinic may be turned away in favor of 'East' bands.

Here is how the clinic works:

Bands will warm-up, perform on stage, sight-read, and be judged as they always are for MPA with the same criteria, etc. The judges will be the same for all groups, on all three days. For those participating in the clinic, you will have a clinician observing your performance and sight-reading in addition to the three stage judges and one sight-reading judge. This is possible because we will have two sight-reading rooms set up, and the sight-reading judge will move between the two rooms so that you and your band can stay put with the clinician. The clinician is not assigning you a rating in any way.

After you are done sight-reading, the clinician will spend 30 minutes with you and your group discussing your performance, where you can go from here, and teaching you how to get there. The goal is to work on fundamental concepts and develop rehearsal techniques that you can take back to your own band room. This may or may not be done through the literature you've just performed.

This year's clinician is Dr. Michael Votta from the University of Maryland. Dr. Votta is well-known to veteran directors in our area from his previous positions at UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University. Dr. Votta has experience in the clinic setting and has expressed a sincere interest in this event's success as it is the first of its kind in North Carolina. He will not simply push you off of the podium for 30 minutes and work with your kids, but will work with you and through you to help develop your band. The clinic is meant to benefit both students and directors by working on concepts, not just the literature.

The cost for the traditional MPA is \$175, and the cost for the MPA with Clinic is \$250. While \$250 might seem like a lot for MPA, please consider that you would be spending \$175 anyway and you are not likely to get a college level director of Dr. Votta's stature in your band room for only \$75.

Bands choosing not to participate in the clinic may request to attend MPA on any day of the event.

The NCMEA Handbook has very specific rules regarding participation in one of its sponsored music festivals. Please consult this document on the state website to be sure you follow all necessary rules and regulations.

Please note the following:

- If you want to request to go out-of-district for MPA, you must receive written release from both the CDBA MPA Chair and written permission from the MPA Chair in the district where you wish to enter. This also applies to CDBA East groups wishing to participate in CDBA MPA West and vice versa. **You must obtain this permission by February 1.** Contact me if you have questions.
- The registration and fee must be postmarked no later than **FEBRUARY 22, 2017.**
- **Registration is online – Log in to the members section of the [CDBA website](#)** to reach the registration form link.
- After completing online registration, send copy and payment to:
Matt Edwards (CDBA East HS MPA Chair)
Fuquay-Varina High School
201 Bengal Blvd.
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526
- Time slots are filled on a first come first serve basis, so apply as early as possible. The schedule should be finalized by March 1st and posted on the Central District website.
- **The fee for each band to participate at MPA (no clinic) is \$175.00 if not participating in the clinic. For MPA WITH CLINIC, the fee is \$250.** A check or money order payable to “Central District Band Association” must accompany your mailed registration form.
- **Each Band Director must be a member of NAFME** in order to have a band participate in MPA. All Band Directors must bring their current NAFME card at the registration table on the day of the event.
- All members of the performing bands **must be enrolled in a band class at your school.**
- **You must provide three conductors scores of each of the two MPA-list compositions and your march. Present these at the registration table when you check in.** Selections performed that are out of print must have publisher’s authorization before a photocopied score will be permitted for use. We will need to know about 2 weeks before the event if you will need to use the score service. In planning your music and securing your scores, please plan for this new requirement. Only scores requested ahead of time will be available on-site at the event.
- Remember to choose your music from the **official NCBA MPA list, which can be found at <http://www.ncbandmasters.org/concertbandmpa.html>.** Carefully check the latest version of the MPA list and the *List of Changes*. Each year there are changes and it is your responsibility to check the latest version of this list. If you are playing an arrangement, be sure the arrangement you’ve chosen is on the list. A few multi-movement pieces may be performed on different grade levels depending on the specific movements selected. If you are playing one of these pieces, carefully review the notes on the MPA list. If you have questions, don’t hesitate to contact me for assistance.
- MPA judges are prohibited from guest conducting, rehearsing or evaluating a group in the same semester that they will judge at their MPA event. Do not enlist our MPA judges to perform any of these duties prior to MPA.
- There have been some changes to both the Stage and Sight-Reading Sheets. See the latest version of the forms under the “Adjudication Forms” heading at <http://www.ncbandmasters.org/concertbandmpa.html>.
- There is a specific script that the sight-reading judge will use. You can find the script at <http://www.ncbandmasters.org/concertbandmpa.html>.

TIMING:

Staging and Performance

- Level III and IV may not exceed 30 minutes of stage time.
- Level V may not exceed 35 minutes of stage time.
- Level VI and Masterwork may not exceed 40 minutes of stage time.

Sight Reading

- Level I Bands do NOT sight read.
- Level II, III, and IV Bands have five minutes to prepare the piece for sight-reading.
- Level V Bands have six minutes to prepare the piece for sight-reading.
- Level VI and Masterwork Bands have seven minutes to prepare the piece for sight-reading.

Warm-Up

- Level III and IV Bands are given 30 minutes time in the warm-up room.
- Level V Bands are given 35 minutes time in the warm-up room.
- Level VI and Masterwork Bands are given 40 minutes time in the warm-up room.

REPERTOIRE:

Each band must prepare a march of the director's choice and two compositions from the Official North Carolina Band Association MPA List. One composition must be from the registered difficulty level of evaluation and the other composition may be from the same classification or from a higher classification. If choosing from the Masterworks list, only one selection (as outlined on the list) and a march must be performed.

SIGHT READING:

Sight Reading will be required of all bands (level II through VI and MASTERWORKS) and will follow the guidelines set by the NC Bandmasters. The sight-reading rating score will be included equally in the overall rating for all participating bands.

Bands will read one concert selection and will perform for one sight-reading judge. The judge will make tape comments and use the MENC sight-reading evaluation form.

During the preparation time before the sight-reading performance, band directors and the students may clap rhythms, sing parts, count out loud and finger instruments, but they may not play their instruments. Only one band director may work with a band in the sight-reading room.

During the sight-reading performance, directors may call out letters or numbers and verbal cues (e.g. "more trumpet", "tubas watch") but may not sing parts or rhythms while the band is playing.

Be sure to look at the sight-reading guidelines and judge's script on the NCBA MPA website

(<http://www.ncbandmasters.org/concertbandmpa.html>).

INFORMATION REGARDING THE EVENT:

Judges:

Mr. Stanley Schoonover - Former Music Supervisor of Fairfax County (VA) Public Schools, Founding Director of the Fairfax Wind Symphony.

Biography: <https://www.gettysburg.edu/academics/conservatory/ensembles/bands/wind/guests/schoonover.dot>

Mr. Blair Smith - Former director, Jay M. Robinson HS, Central Cabarrus HS (Cabarrus County, NC)

Dr. Jerry Gatch - Director of Bands, Newberry College (Newberry, SC)

Biography: <https://www.newberry.edu/faculty/details/jerry-gatch>

Dr. Evan Feldman (March 22) - Associate Professor, Area Head of Wind/Brass/Percussion, UNC-Chapel Hill

Biography: <http://music.unc.edu/people/musicfaculty/evan-feldman/>

Dr. Les Hicken (March 23-24) - Director of Bands, Furman University

Biography: <http://www.furman.edu/academics/music/meet-our-faculty/Pages/Leslie-W-Hicken.aspx>

• Clinician:

Dr. Michael Votta (Professor of Conducting, Director of Wind Bands, Univ. of Maryland)

Biography: http://www.music.umd.edu/faculty/music_directory/wind_and_percussion/michael_votta

Site:

Apex Friendship High School, 7801 Humie Olive Road, Apex, NC, 27502

Equipment:

Apex Friendship High School will supply chairs, music stands and podiums for both performance rooms. The warm-up room will have chairs, but stands are not guaranteed. The stage will have the following large percussion instruments:

1 Orchestra Bells

1 36" Bass Drum

1 Xylophone

1 Set of 4 Tympani (23", 26", 29", 32")

1 Marimba

1 Chimes

1 Vibraphone

1 Gong

Performing groups should provide proper mallets for these instruments, as well as all other necessary instruments. The sight-reading room will have all necessary large percussion instruments.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at cdbahsmpaeast@gmail.com or (919) 601-8835 if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Matt Edwards

Fuquay-Varina High School

CDBA East HS MPA Chair

cdbahsmpaeast@gmail.com

Paul Rowe

Apex Friendship High School

CDBA East HS MPA Site Host