

August 1, 2008

Dear WSMA Middle Level State Honors Band Members:

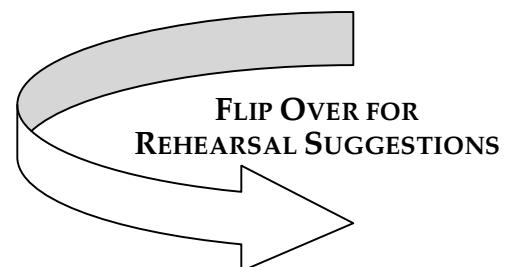
Congratulations on your acceptance as a member of the WSMA Middle Level State Honors Music Project. I am proud of each and every one of you for working hard to become a part of this group.

I am certainly looking forward to working with you. Now that you have the music, PLEASE spend time practicing on it everyday. When you arrive I want to you be able to play the NOTES, RHYTHMS, ARTICULTIONS, and DYNAMICS in ALL of the pieces. In doing so, you will make rehearsal a lot of fun for yourself and others. If you have any problems, I am sure that your director or private teacher will be more than willing to assist you. These works are going to be fun to perform.

Until I see you in October, good luck and keep working hard. It is going to be an AWESOME concert.

Your Conductor,

Quincy C. Hilliard, Ph.D.
Composer in Residence
University of Louisiana - Lafayette



SOME REHEARSAL SUGGESTIONS:

KOTO

- ♪ Make sure you get a full intense sound.
- ♪ Be bold and majestic and sing the slow sections.
- ♪ The trick in this piece is to play as a group with no one group being dominate.

MARCH TO THE BIG TOP

- ♪ This is a circus march and even though it appears easy, it must be played fast.
- ♪ The challenge here is to keep the pulse and drive with intensity while still following the dynamics.

DEEP RIVER

- ♪ Where the march was driven, this is laid back.
- ♪ Try to “sing” your part – (really sing don’t play) - in four measure phrases- and do not rush to beat one of each measure.

THROUGH A DARKENED SLEEPY HOLLOW

- ♪ You know the story, now you have to tell it with your playing. When you tell a story it’s not just the notes that have to be correct, but dynamics, rhythm and accents all have to be perfect. While your part may not seem like it’s telling the story- put it all together and “Run Ichabod Run.”

THE PLACE WHERE THE REED WERE DESTROYED

- ♪ Again this is not just about the notes, but the special effects that you bring to the performance. Work hard to achieve them. The trick is to change your style of playing with each movement.

Try making a practice journal and keep track of what you worked on and what and how you are going to do next. This is a valuable tool for you to stay focused on not only your progress but also your growth in learning the music.

