Hello Band!

Thank you for the opportunity to make music with you as part of the 2023 WSMA High School Honors Band! Your level of musicianship, hard work, flexibility, and focus were amazing all week. These gifts, in combination with a community of remarkable band directors, provided the opportunity for the many outstanding "moments" we shared during the event. Thank you for being an important part of that exceptional community of musicians and for giving so honestly to your music.

I was proud of the ways you embraced the wide range of repertoire we explored during the event. As musicians, we all have certain compositional styles that resonate more deeply within us than others. Yet, I never sensed anything other than a full commitment from the ensemble to sincerely prepare each work. Thank you for your mature, engaged, and committed music making.

One of the great things about music is its ability to bring together people and build community within a short time. I hope this ensemble experience encourages you to continue to play your instrument in new surroundings for the rest of your lives, no matter where or what you choose to do. Your hard work and dedication to the instrument does not have to stop when you leave high school, you can carry this wonderful community spirit behind music making with you for the rest of your lives.

As we look forward to October, I am excited that we get to come together as a community again to take the music even farther! Finding ways to further our individual and group abilities to express our musical vision. I challenge you to listen to professional recordings of the repertoire we played and see how you can bring a new level as an individual musician. Know that I will do the same as your conductor so we can work as a group toward a new level of communication.

It was a joy to spend the week with you and hope you feel the same. I look forward to our time together in October and would love to hear from you as your journey continues. I wish you an enjoyable school year filled with more wonderful music making. If there are ways in which I can be of service to you, please contact me at your convenience. Congratulations again, best wishes for continued success in all of your endeavors, and I'll see you in October!

All the Best.

Peter Haberman
Director of Bands
Concordia College
phaberma@cord.edu

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