



WTSBOA Membership Meeting #3
University School of Jackson
May 3, 2025

Call to Order

President Benjamin Martin called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Minutes: Megan Woodring, Secretary

The minutes from Membership Meeting #2 were read.

Motion made to approve the minutes as read.

Motion Seconded.

Motion Passed.

Treasurer's Report: Darrell Evans, Treasurer

The treasurer's report is posted on the website.

Motion made to approve the report as listed on the website.

Motion Seconded.

Motion Passed.

President's Report: Benjamin Martin

- I. Thank you for a great year.
- II. Hall of Fame Nominations

- a. Please send the Executive Committee a bio and picture
- b. Nominations close on Monday, May 12
- c. Form can be found on the website

Band Report

Justin Brown: Nothing to report.

Kathryn Moore: Nothing to report.

Orchestra Report

Pam Wilensky:

- I. All-West Clinicians have mostly been secured for next year. All clinicians will be announced at the August Meeting

Jazz Report

Ollie Liddell: Nothing to report.

TBA Report: Jennifer Cupples

- I. Nominations for president will be online
- II. Watch the website for information on Summer Symposium

All-West Clinic Report: Brad Turner

- I. Thank you for a successful All-West Clinic
- II. If you'd like to get involved with All-West, talk to Brad
- III. We are adding a Middle School String Ensemble next year
- IV. All-State is moving to January in 2027
 - a. We are still researching all options regarding All-West dates and waiting on more info from TMEA
 - b. All-State rosters for 2027 will be due by November 22, so auditions will have to occur prior to that
 - c. More finite decisions will be presented at our August meeting

All-State Report: Jason Deem

- I. The All-State registration process was not seamless
 - a. We are working on issues to make this better
- II. It was a great convention: Congrats to West Ensembles that performed:
Bartlett HS Band and Collierville HS Jazz Band
- III. If you'd like your ensemble to perform or if you'd like to present at the conference, registration is due soon – see the TMEA website
- IV. Next year dates will be similar (Thursday – Sunday)

Old Business

- I. Jason Deem: All-West Music Committee
 - a. We formed a committee at the February meeting to re-evaluate music for All-West Auditions for Middle School, 9-10, and 11-12 bands.
 - b. 3 people were chosen to lead the committee, and each will present findings and suggestions
 - c. Auditions are moving to November
- II. Patrick McDermott: Middle School Band Music
 - a. See attachment for findings
 - b. Proposal: Remove one excerpt (go from 3 to 2) – keep one technical and one lyrical
- III. Patrick McDermott: 9-10 Band Music
 - a. See attachment for findings
 - b. Proposal: Remove one excerpt (go from 3 to 2) – keep one technical and one lyrical
- IV. Patrick McDermott: 11-12 Band Music
 - a. Keep music as it is – release the audition cuts earlier than 2 weeks before auditions
- V. Micaiah Radcliffe: Percussion
 - a. Present Issues: Audition rooms get behind and music is too difficult
 - b. See attachment for findings
- VI. Jason Deem:
 - a. TMEA is going to require all regions to use the same music in future years
 - b. Our committee leaders will be the voice of west TN at the state level
 - c. Any funding needed for changing music will be paid for by TBA and TMEA
- VII. Jason Deem: Scales
 - a. Proposal: No scale rotations. Required scales are released 48 hours before audition day.
 - b. Rationale:
 - i. All students prepare the same music, but their scales are different

- ii. We are the only region where students do not play the same scales, we are the only region with a scale rotation, we are the only region that doesn't release scale requirements before audition
- iii. Our job as an association is to put adjudicators in the best position to adequately score students
- iv. Judges may not even know if a student is playing the correct scale
- c. Further discussion
 - i. Chromatic Scale will still be used to show range
 - ii. Middle School scales will still meet the parameters set in the bylaws
 - iii. Scales will be selected per instrument (not all winds will be playing the same scale)

New Business

Motion: Doug Owens

Motion made to approve the proposal of the All-West Music Committee for Middle School Winds: Remove one excerpt and only require two – one technical and one lyrical.

Motion Seconded.

Motion Passed.

Motion: Patrick McDermott

Motion made to approve the proposal of the All-West Music Committee for 9-10 HS Band Winds: Remove one excerpt and only require two – one technical and one lyrical.

Motion Seconded.

Motion Passed.

Motion: Joseph Bullington

Motion made to release the cuts for the 11-12 HS Band Winds when the full excerpt is released.

Motion Seconded.

Motion Passed.

Motion: Micaiah Radcliffe

Motion made to accept edits made by the All-West Music Committee for all Middle School, 9-10, and 11-12 Percussion Audition Music.

Motion Seconded.

Motion Passed.

Motion: Macaiah Radcliffe

Motion made for all percussion scales, including chromatic scale, to only be played two octaves.

Motion Seconded.

Motion Passed.

Motion: Jason Deem

Motion made for wind players in grades 5-12 auditioning for Band to play 2 scales plus a chromatic scale. These will be the same scales for all students on that instrument. Scales will be released 48 hours before auditions.

Motion Seconded.

Motion Amended:

Motion made for all wind and percussion players in grades 5-12 auditioning for Band to play 2 scales plus chromatic scale. These will be the same scales for all students on that instrument. Scales will be released 48 hours before auditions.

Motion Seconded.

Motion Passed.

Motion: Pam Wilensky

Motion made to change the violin seating (Article VIII) to read: Violins 1-6 will play 1st part; Violins 7-12 will play the first 3 stands of the 2nd part and will retain their All-State status. Violins 13-26 will play to the last 7 stands of the 1st part. Violins 27-40 will play the last 7 stands of the 2nd Violin part.

Motion Seconded.

Motion Passed.

Motion: Pam Wilensky

Motion made to change the violin seating to read: Violins 1-6 will play 1st part, Violins 7-12 will play the first 3 stands of the 2nd part and will retain their All-State status. Violins 13-28 will play to the last 8 stands of the 1st Violin part. Violins 29-44 will play to the last 8 stands of the 2nd Violin part.

Motion Seconded.

Motion Passed.

Motion: Jason Deem

Motion made for WTSBOA to no longer host marching band festival.

Rationale: WTSBOA loses money on this event. The only income comes from registration fee and tickets. Bands can still earn TBA sweepstakes by going to another TBA sanctioned event. This is a constitutional change (see bylaws).

Motion Seconded.

Motion Passes.

Motion: Micaiah Radcliffe

Motion made to remove the requirement of NAFME membership from our Constitution and Bylaws.

Rationale: This is not required for TMEA, but it is still in our bylaws. This is a constitutional change (see bylaws).

Motion Seconded.

Motion Passed.

Officer Nominations: Benjamin Martin

We need to elect 3 officers: Secretary, Treasurer, President-Elect.

Nomination: Megan Woodring, Secretary

Nominated by Susan Spain

Motion made to re-elect Megan Woodring for Secretary.

Motion Seconded.

Motion Passed.

Nomination: Darrell Evans, Treasurer

Nominated by Brad Turner

Motion made to re-elect Darrell Evans for Treasurer

Motion Seconded.

Motion Passed.

Nomination: Jason Deem, President-Elect

Nomination made by Joe Davis

Motion made to elect Jason Deem for President-Elect.

Motion Seconded.

Motion Passed.

Proposed Calendar: Benjamin Martin

*See attachment

Discussion: One big change is that all All-West Auditions will take place on the same day in November (to help us prepare for the future)

Announcements:

- Retirements: Mike Tucker from Westview HS
- Pam Wilensky: Summer at the Scheidt Music Camp
- Sam Schirmer: Arlington Invitational is September 20
- Micaiah Radcliffe: if you're interested in helping proofread the new percussion music for All-West Auditions, please contact Micaiah.
- Cari Burgess: Collierville Tournament of Champions is October 4
- Cari Burgess: WGI Color Guard Regional March 7 and 8
- Jason Deem: Union City Invitational is September 27

- Kerry Radcliffe: New indoor percussion Ensemble: Grind City Percussion
- Jordan Ashby: Jackson Symphonic Winds Concert on Monday (May 5) night at Union University Chapel

Motion to Adjourn.

Motion Seconded.

Motion Passed.

The meeting ended at 10:45 AM.

Submitted By;



Megan Woodring

WTSBOA Executive Committee

Below:

Attachment 1 = All-West Music Committee Review

Attachment 2 = Proposed Calendar

ATTACHMENT 1: All-West Music Committee Review

SCOPE

The all west music review committees went through and rated all of the all west using the **TBA** rubric for reviewing concert literature.

We reviewed the excerpts from **middle** and **east** Tennessee's region band auditions to see how our music stacked up in total measures and note count.

MS FINDINGS

On average:

WTSBOA has approximately **211.64** notes per excerpt.

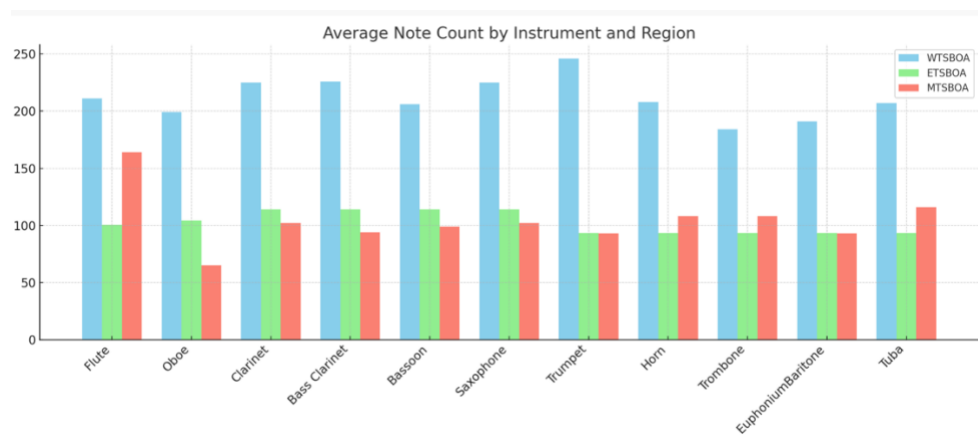
Other regions have approximately **101.20** notes per excerpt.

That means WTSBOA has about **110.43** more notes on average than the other regions across all instruments.

Here are the instruments ranked by how much WTSBOA's note count differs from the average of other regions (largest variance first):

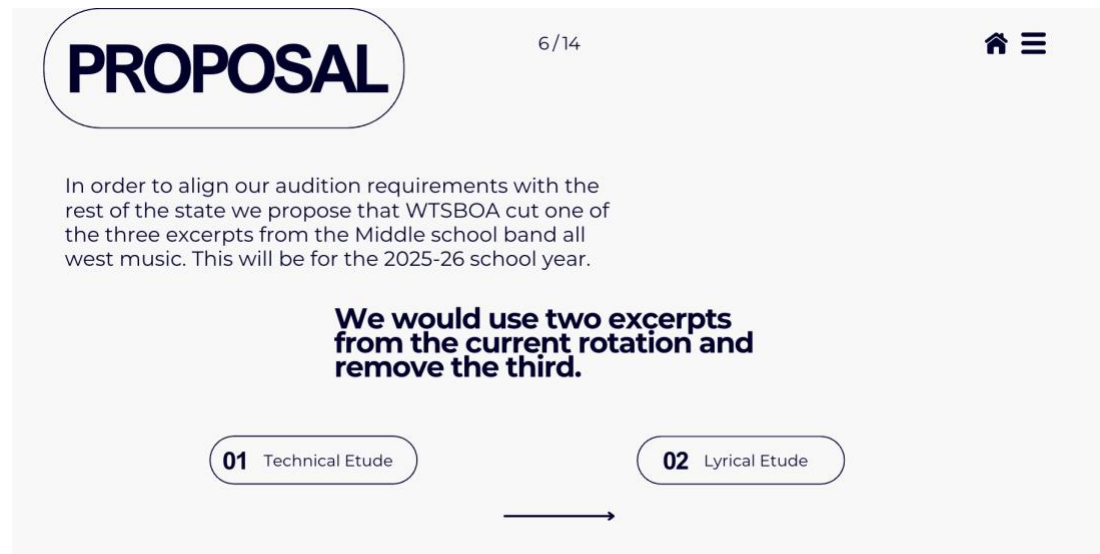
1. Trumpet – **152.75** more notes
2. Bass Clarinet – **118.67** more notes
3. Clarinet – **115.00** more notes
4. Saxophone – **115.00** more notes
5. Horn – **111.00** more notes
6. Tuba – **108.00** more notes
7. Oboe – **107.80** more notes
8. Flute – **104.80** more notes
9. Euphonium/Baritone – **97.75** more notes
10. Bassoon – **97.00** more notes
11. Trombone – **87.00** more notes

Trumpet shows the most significant variance, meaning WTSBOA gives its players a much heavier workload compared to other regions.



CHANGES

There is a high probability that in the 2027-28 school year, the state will move to make one set of excerpts for the state band auditions.



HS INTRO & ADJUSTED SCOPE

Initially looked to replace 9-10 with excerpts

Initially looked to fine-tune 11-12 etudes

Potential state changes led to changing scope to be more short-term oriented

HS FINDINGS

We counted a lot of notes! (thanks HS TAs)

Our HS rep has many more notes than other regions, just like MS did.

Committee members disagreed on impact of the number of notes in our music

OUR SUBCOMMITTEE RECCOMENDATIONS (NOW)

While some members disagreed, a majority believe we should (assuming auditions are moved up):

Remove the third excerpt from each 9-10 rotation.

Give students more time with the audition cuts for 11-12 rotation

OUR SUBCOMMITTEE RECCOMENDATIONS (NEXT)

We should also:

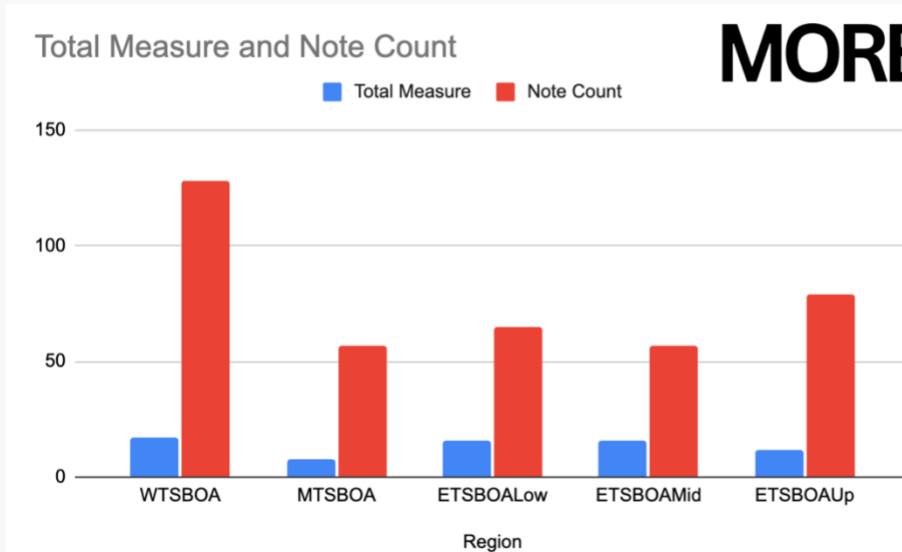
Continue this subcommittee to represent our organization at the state level.

Allow anyone interested in this new scope of our subcommittee to join.

Intentionally represent the majority opinion of our membership at the state level, advocating to not greatly reduce difficulty from current WTSBOA audition repertoire

ALL WEST PERCUSSION MUSIC REVIEW

GUESS WHAT? MORE NOTES.



There are a number of consistent issues members have with our percussion audition process and content:

Audition rooms get behind

Sections of audition music are not idiomatic to the instrument

Sections are unnecessarily difficult

Excerpts are not musical

ISSUE #2

- **Sections of audition music are not idiomatic to the instrument:**

- If not deleted in the previous step, remaining un-idiomatic segments were rewritten.

ISSUE #3

- **Sections are unnecessarily difficult:**

- Sections that were not grade level appropriate or unnecessarily difficult were deleted or rewritten.

ISSUE #1

- **Audition rooms get behind:**

- MS and 9-10 prepared pieces are twice as many measures total as their WTSBOA wind counterparts.
 - Each excerpt was about 20 measures (60 total) vs approximately 32-36 total for the winds
 - WTBOSA percussion etudes have on average twice as many measures as our other regional counterparts.
- We edited down each excerpt to be roughly 12 measures, so all total it is about 36 measures, mainly eliminating repetitive material.
- We would like to propose limiting percussion scales to 2 octaves:
 - Nothing changes after the second octave from a technical standpoint. Playing 4.3 octave chromatic scale on a keyboard just means you know how to step to your right and left.

ISSUE #4

- **Exerpts are not musical:**

- Feedback from Dr. Shaltis (UofM) and Dr. Shoupe (UTM) pointed out how unmusical many of the exerpts were
- more expression marks and dynamics were added to allow for more guidance, and some changes were made to provide more musical and expressive variety

SPECIAL NOTE: 11-12

- **The excerpts affected most dramatically were the 11-12 grade marimba.**

- 11-12 are the excerpts that are complained about most often.
- These required significantly more technical skills than other state regions.
- In the edit for this next rotation we:
 - limited the 4 mallets skills to double verticals and inside mallet single independents strokes, which would align with a college audition skillset
 - Decreased the tempo (which was an unnecessary difficulty)
 - transposed to a new key to avoid un-idiomatic voicings of chords

RECCOMENDATION

- **Possible complete rewrite**

- These edits are a band-aid fix to work with our shorter preparation period for November Auditions.
- With the upcoming state wide audition music, this will be the perfect opportunity to start over.
- If the state excerpts do not take effect after this year, we can get feedback from the membership and do another round of edits for the next rotation.
- The committee will establish parameters for an optimal percussion audition for each grade level and present to the state-wide music committee.

ATTACHMENT 2: Proposed Calendar

2025-2026 WTSBOA Calendar (Unofficial)

| WTSBOA Meetings | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Meeting #1 | August 16, 2025 | Liberty Tech High School Jackson, TN/USJ | Chelsea Subick | | 9:30 |
| Meeting #2 | February 12, 2026 | Convention Center Room 108 | Chelsea Subick | | |
| Meeting #3 | May 2, 2026 | Jackson Site | Chelsea Subick | | 9:30 |
| Event | Date | Location | Contact | Postmark Deadline | Details |
| Marching Festival | September 28, 2024 | Union City High School | Jason Deem | | Only if kept |
| All-West | | | | | |
| Event | Date | Location | Contact | Postmark Deadline | Details |
| All-West Orchestra Auditions | November 22, 2025 | Collierville High School | | | |
| All-West Jazz and Band Auditions | November 22, 2025 | Collierville High School | Thomas Richardson | | |
| All-West Clinic and Convention | February 12-14, 2026 | Canon Center | Chelsea Subick | | |
| Concert Performance Assessment | | | | | |
| Event | Date | Location | Contact | Postmark Deadline | Details |
| Orchestra CPA | March 10-12 | Cordova High School | Chelsea Subick | | |
| Memphis Band CPA | March 10-13 | University of Memphis | Megan Woodring | | |
| UTM CPA | March 10-13 | UTM | Jennifer Cupples | | |
| Jazz Festival | April 28, 2025 | | Ollie Liddell | | |
| Solo and Ensemble | | | | | |
| Event | Date | Location | Contact | Postmark Deadline | Details |
| Orchestra Solo and Ensemble | October 25, 2025 | Bartlett High School | Robyn Greene | | |
| UTM Solo and Ensemble | 4/16/2026 or 18th | UTM | Jason Deem | | |
| Memphis Solo and Ensemble | April 18, 2026 | Elemore Park | Brent Hopper | | |
| All-State | | | | | |
| All-State Conference | April 9-12, 2026 | Gaylord Opry Center | Jason Deem | | |