

Best of the West Music Festival

Clinic – Conference

Moss Performing Arts Center

Mesa State College

Fall 2009

Dept./Num. MUSA 596 Topics: Best of the West Clinic-Conference, one credit
CEMU 011: Best of the West Clinic-Conference, one continuing education unit

Course Title: Clinic - Conference, Best of the West Music Festival

Instructor: Calvin Hofer, with guests: Gillian Mackay, Craig Ketels,
Brian Bowman, David Gillingham

Office: Moss Performing Arts Center 135

Email: chofer@mesastate.edu

Class Hrs: December 2, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Robinson Theater
December 3, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m., Recital Hall
December 4, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. & 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
December 5, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. & 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Credit Hrs: 1 Graduate credit/1 continuing education credit.

Location: Mesa State College, Moss Performing Arts Center

Office Hrs: By appointment

1. Course Description

This course will engage directors in teaching-learning environments such as rehearsals, clinics and concerts. Directors will attend three concerts, four clinics and observe six hours of rehearsals (both bands). Directors will interact with nationally and internationally known artists, glean practical teaching strategies that can be used during their next class period. Examples of topics covered are: rehearsal strategies, choosing literature, brass/woodwind/percussion pedagogy & techniques, performance skills, commissioning new music, teaching musical concepts, curriculum alignment.

2. Course Rationale

Best of the West Music has evolved into a unique festival offering learning opportunities for high school and middle school band directors. Directors who bring students to the festival already attend most of the concerts and clinics as well as observe rehearsals. This course formalizes this experience into a course for attending directors to receive credit for their time and work. Further, directors from middle schools have an additional opportunity to pursue continuing education attending this clinic/conference.

3. Required Scores

Directors will be required to have a minimum of two scores from the repertoire list, which will be sent out in plenty of time for directors to obtain. A score of the newly commissioned work by David Gillingham will also be made available, as well as a score of Dr. Gillingham's Euphonium Concerto.

4. **Course Objectives**

The objective of this course is to give directors a better understanding of how they can have more effective rehearsals, choose excellent literature, efficiently teach the instruments of the band, obtain better conducting technique/ gestural vocabulary, gain insights from composers, listen to world-class guest artists, witness the rehearsal and world premiere of a new piece, and observe excellent conductor-teachers. Because the topics change from year to year, so too will the objectives of this conference. With that said, however, there are over-arching themes/topics that are consistently presented.

5. **Grade Distribution - Pass-Fail**

Optional attendance at MSC Dress Rehearsal with guest composer and artist.

Your input will requested based on your study of the scores

Attendance at all Concerts & Clinics

Observe six hours of BOTW rehearsals, both bands/conductors

Three Page Reflective Paper (for those registering for Graduate Credit)

Due January 8, 2010 at CBA Honor Jazz Festival

E-mail to Dr. Hofer: chofer@mesastate.edu

6. **Class Schedule**

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 7:00 p.m.
(optional)

Observe rehearsal with David Gillingham
and Brian Bowman, Robinson Theater

Thursday, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.
(CD will be provided if you cannot attend
due to travel)

Attend Guest Artist Recital
Brian Bowman, Recital Hall

Friday, Dec. 4, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Observe Rehearsals
Attend Two Clinics
Attend Evening Concert

Saturday, Dec. 5, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Attend Master Classes
Attend Two Clinics
Observe Rehearsals

7. **Reflection Paper** (for those registered for Graduate Credit – MUSA 596)

A three-page reflection paper is due by January 8, 2010. Your paper should address what you learned during the festival in general, and more specifically how it can be applied to your teaching. Topics discussed should include, but not be limited to: conducting technique, gestural vocabulary, rehearsal techniques, literature selection, etc. Due 1/8/10

8. **Cost**

Graduate Credit - \$45.00

Continuing Education Credit - \$30.00

9. **Registration**

Directors should inform Calvin Hofer by email if they wish to register. A repertoire list and a score of the newly commissioned piece, as well as the registration form will be made available. Directors will check in on the morning of December 4th, 2009 between 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. chofer@mesastate.edu