Best of the West Music Festival 2019
Clinic
Moss Performing Arts Center  Colorado Mesa University

Dept./Num.  ISED 580: Best of the West Music Clinic, one continuing education credit;
Course Title:  Best of the West Music Clinic
Instructor:  Calvin Hofer, with guests: Emily Moss, Katie Zdanowski, Mike Perez, Joe
Burgstaller and Paul Dooley
Office:  Moss Performing Arts Center 001
Email:  chofer@coloradomesa.edu
Class Hrs:  December 6, 2019  1:00 – 9:00 p.m.
December 7, 2019  8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Consult BOTW schedules for room and times of individual sessions

Credit Hrs:  1 continuing education credit.
Location:  Colorado Mesa University, Moss Performing Arts Center
Office Hrs:  By appointment;  (970) 248-1163
chofer@coloradomesa.edu

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 and sectionals (three bands).  Directors will interact with nationally and
internationally known artists, gleaning 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 have an opportunity to pursue continuing education
credit attending this clinic/conference.

3.  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.  That said,
however, there are over-arching themes/topics that are consistently presented.
4. **Course Assessment**

A three-page reflection paper is due electronically by December 12, 2019. 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, instrumental pedagogy and any other topic pertinent to teaching music through performance in band.

4. **Grade Distribution - Pass-Fail**

The following activities are required to earn a “Pass” grade:
- Attendance at all Concerts & Clinics
- Observe six hours of BOTW rehearsals, three bands/conductors
- Complete 3 page reflection paper assignment by due date

Optional course activities:
- Attendance at CMU Dress Rehearsal with guest composer and artist.

5. **Class Schedule**

Friday, Dec. 6th, 1:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Observe Rehearsals & Sectionals  
Attend Three Clinics  
Attend Evening Concert

Saturday, Dec. 7th, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Attend Master Classes  
Attend Composer Clinic  
Observe Rehearsals

6. **Cost**

ISED Credit - $45.00

8. **Registration**

Directors register online via the Best of the West website:  
[http://www.coloradomesa.edu/music/festivals-camps/best-west.html](http://www.coloradomesa.edu/music/festivals-camps/best-west.html)

**Refund Statement**: Course registration will be closed one week after the first day of the course, unless prearranged by the instructor and approved by the institution. Students can request a refund during this registration window. Once the course registration window has been closed, no refunds will be issued unless approved by the Director of Distance Education.

Please ensure that you are registered and have paid for the course before your arrival on December 6th.