Best of the West Music Festival 2021 Clinic
Continuing Education Credit Syllabus

Course: ISED 580 – Best of the West Music Clinic
Location: Moss Performing Arts Center, Colorado Mesa University
Credit Hours: 1 Continuing Education Credit

Instructor: Dr. Sean Flanigan
Phone: 970-623-4419 (text or call)
Office Location: Moss Performing Arts Center Room 129
Email: flanigan@coloradomesa.edu

Guest artists: Robert Harrover, Genice Matzke, Andrew Bajorek, Dr. Birch Browning

Class Hours:
December 10, 2021  1:00 – 9:00 pm
December 11, 2021  8:30 am – 5:00 pm
(Consult the official Best of The West schedules for locations and times)

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.

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.

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.
Course Assessment

A 3-page reflection paper is due electronically by December 17, 2021. 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. Upon completion, please email the paper to the instructor at: flanigan@coloradomesa.edu

Grade Distribution

This course is offered on a Pass/Fail basis. The following activities are required:
- Attendance at all Concerts & Clinics
- Observe six hours of BOTW rehearsals, three bands/conductors
- Complete the 3-page Reflections paper assignment by the due date

Class Schedule

Friday, Dec. 10th, 1:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- Observe rehearsals & sectionals
- Attend three clinics
- Attend Friday evening concert

Saturday, Dec. 11th, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Attend Master Classes
- Attend Composer Clinics
- Observe Rehearsals
- Attend final Best of the West concert

Cost

The cost for this Continuing Education Credit (ISED 580) is $45. Please make sure you are registered for the course and have paid the course tuition before you arrive on campus December 10th.

You may register online using the link provided on the Best of West website:

http://www.coloradomesa.edu/music/festivals-camps/best-west.html

Refund Policy: 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.