

History of the Texas Community College All-State Band

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The Beginning

Dr. David Corder (former Director of Bands, Lee College, Baytown) organized the first all-state band which performed in San Antonio's Municipal Auditorium under the direction of James Jacobsen in 1974. For the first 12 years of its existence, the Texas Junior College Teachers Association Honor Band, as it was referred to, performed at the Texas Junior College Teachers Association annual convention. Following is Dr. Corder's account of how the association of TJCTA and the Texas Junior College Honor Band began.

The Texas Community College All State Honor Band: (1974-) An Introduction

The Texas Junior College Teachers Association (TJCTA) met annually in February for their professional conference in a pre-selected location at Galveston, Austin, Houston or San Antonio. The program usually consisted of a Wednesday night final planning session with Dr. Charles Burnside, the association's executive secretary, and the elected officers for that particular year. The conference started with a reception for the current and past Presidents of the Association on Thursday evening. A jazz group from one of the junior colleges provided the background entertainment. On Friday morning an Opening General Assembly meeting included a pre-meeting concert performed by the winning competitor of the TJCTA jazz ensemble prepared tape jazz contest. The winning band also performed one to three selections on the assembly program. The day continued with professional meetings, presentations and special clinicians providing their expertise in certain subject areas. Publishers of text books had organized booths. They displayed many of the recently published text books and revised editions by subject matter included in most of the junior college curricula of the day. In addition the publishers had "hospitality rooms" available for complimentary drinks and snacks through-out the day and night - and in some hotel suites into the early hours of the morning! Their locations were, of course, by word- of- mouth and not officially sanctioned by the Association. On Saturday morning there was a Closing General Assembly Meeting. Prior to the meeting a select group of singers known as the Texas Junior College Honor Choir would sing a short concert and again sing a few selections on the program. It was at this final meeting of the 1973 TJCTA Conference that the idea about a TJCTA All State Honor Band was conceived.

The Texas Junior College Teachers Association for the year of 1973 had a great deal of political activity. Prior to this time, administrators of various junior colleges and their department heads held most of the voting power and offices of

the association. A few years earlier I'm told there was a time at my college when faculty presence at the conference was mandatory. In fact the only faculty travel funding they received had to be used for this conference. While in 1973 this was no longer the case, I can state that perhaps for the first time the teaching faculty members of the association were supporting several of their own colleagues for association positions. This indeed was called the day (and nights) of the "smoke-filled rooms" and political "deal swapping." On the Saturday morning at the General Assembly meeting, the pre-meeting choir concert had many cigar-smoking and political-minded individuals in attendance. Their intention was not, unfortunately, to be a polite and listening audience but more to continue the political banter that had gone on for the last few days - including their "complimentary attitude" from the night before! For several years running the various directors chosen to conduct the Texas Junior College Honor Choir had bemoaned the behavior of this unruly audience! In 1973 the Choir Director stopped the performance at least three times during the pre-meeting concert to request that the "audience" quiet down. As I remember this was quite a chaotic event!

After the assembly meeting adjourned I happened to overhear the coordinator of the TJCTA Choir speaking to Dr. Burnside, the Executive Director of the conference. The coordinator clearly communicated to Dr. Burnside that the TJCTA Honor Choir would never again perform at this annual meeting. My first thought was that an Honor Band could surely perform louder than this inattentive audience! I knew Dr. Burnside pretty well since over the years I had performed with one of my college ensembles at the Past Presidents reception and also as the winning jazz band to perform on the opening meeting of the conference. In addition, I had made several contributions to the various meetings as a panel member or curriculum speaker during the conference. I had no reluctance when I stepped up to Dr. Burnside and suggested to him that we have an Honor Concert Band at next year's conference to replace the choir performance. He accepted my offer on the spot, saying "Why don't you do that?" At least at this point I had an unofficial confirmation from the Executive Director of the association! During the next year, Dr. Burnside's assistance and the TJCTA's financial support would prove to be invaluable in blocking out hotel rooms for the student performers and their directors, providing for the Clinician/Conductor and soloist fees, and other various expenses. I might add he also "comped" the band coordinator's room. With Dr. Burnside's generous attention in establishing a financial basis for this new performing venue, the Texas Junior College All State Honor Band could become a reality.

Even at the close of the conference I was able to tell a few band directors about my conversation with Dr. Burnside and the possibility of this new band. After returning home I contacted by phone and by letter all the directors I could find about performing in the new band and asked them to identify eight to ten students they could bring to the conference; keeping in mind, of course, a good distribution of instruments. As we did not have a formal organization I decided it would be best for me to centralize all the various administrative functions from my office. I first received written confirmation from Dr. Burnside and TJCTA. I then selected the Guest Conductor/Clinician: James Jacobsen, Director of Bands at Texas Christian University. James selected and furnished some of the music. I was associated with the tuba soloist, Richard Frazier, as he had recently been a soloist with the Lee College Concert Band. Music was also provided by H&H Music Co. of Houston, Texas and Mr. Al Sturchio from the North East ISD in San Antonio provided some percussion instruments. The hotel said they did not have a ballroom but we could use the solarium room for the rehearsals. Not really having time to take a trip to San Antonio I agreed on the hotel's judgment for the rehearsal location. Later on, this decision would grow to haunt me!

Everyone arrived in San Antonio on Wednesday, February 20th. We had 18 schools and directors participating with 114 students in the band. I arrived early that morning with an open truck full of instruments and covered with a tarp. It rained that morning! The band directors assisted in auditioning the seating order of the sections and many other organizational tasks. Larry Campbell, Director of Bands at Blinn College, assisted greatly in this inaugural year and became highly involved in developing the Texas Junior College Band Directors Association in the following years. The first rehearsal was one to remember. The solarium room was not a room with perhaps wallpaper printed in a green plant pattern as I had hurriedly envisioned. Just as the word solarium implies, the rehearsal area was an empty room, glass from bottom to top, located in the garden of the hotel. We quickly made arrangements to rehearse across the street at another hotel. I might add that TJCTA generously picked up the rental cost for the new rehearsal room.

The concert of the first Texas Junior College All State Honor Band was performed at 10:30 AM in the Municipal Auditorium, San Antonio, Texas, on February 23, 1974. The concert went very well and was a good bit louder than the audience! The program included the following repertoire:

LESLIE.....*Night Flight to Madrid*
SHOSTAKOVICH-HUNSBERGER..... *Festive Overture, Opus 96*
JAGER..... *Third Suite*
BENCRISCUTTO..... *Concertino for Tuba and Band*
BERSTEIN-DUTHOIT..... *“West Side Story” Selections*

The Band Directors supporting the first band were as follows:

Mr. Jerry Perkins Alvin Jr. College
Mr. Larry Campbell Blinn College
Dr. Charles McAdams Grayson County College
Mr. Tommy Downing Henderson County Jr. College
Mr. P. B. Castleberry Hill Jr. College
Mr. David Corder Lee College
Mr. David Hooten McLennan Community College
Mr. Bob Whipkey Navarro Jr. College
Mr. Peter Figert Odessa College
Mr. Robert Reid Panola College
Ms. Julie Ryan Paris Jr. College
Dr. Bill Auvenshine Ranger Jr. College
Mr. Joe Silva Southwest Texas College
Mr. Larry Guess Temple Jr. College
Mr. Barry Mitchell Texarkana College
Mr. Robert Hickford Texas Southmost College
Mr. Wilber Collins Victoria College
Dr. W. W. Wendtland Wharton County Jr. College

Now, after so many years have passed, I again extend many thanks for the support extended by the Lee College maintenance department, the LC Media Center, and the LC Fine Arts Division. Thanks are again given for the assistance of Dr. Ada Smith, Ms. Peggy Powers, Mr. Jim Meadows, and especially to Dr. Charles Burnside and the Texas Junior College Teachers Association. Due to the desire to pursue a more favorable performance venue for the band, it was decided to propose to the Texas Music Educators Association that the band might perform at the TMEA annual conference/clinic. The Texas Community College All State Honor Band now performs a concert each year at TMEA. A few years ago the Texas Community College Honor Choir also started performing at TMEA. I extend many thanks to TMEA and their administration for making this wonderful venue available to these community college organizations. Both community college organizations have developed into state-wide associations for their directors. Over the past twenty-three the years, I have become very proud of their integrity and purpose. The students are in good hands!

David Lee Corder, Ed.D.

Founder, Chairperson, and Coordinator of the first

Texas Junior College Teachers Association All State Honor Band

October, 2007

Dr. Corder's account, interviews with Larry Campbell (past Director of Bands at Blinn College), programs, and LP recordings provide information about the band's first two years. The author's personal experience with the band from 1976 through 2016 provides information for the remaining history.

The TCCBDA website hosts a nearly complete digital archive of all concert programs. Hard copies of the programs and recordings of most performances are housed by the Texas Bandmasters Association.

As was customary then and still today, TJCTA (now TCCTA) Conventions are held in different cities each year, San Antonio the site in 1974. For several years prior to the band's organization and participation at these conventions, select jazz ensembles from various community colleges performed for functions at the convention while a Texas Junior College Honor Choir performed at the last General Session on Saturday morning. As mentioned in Dr. Corder's account, the honor choir decided to leave after the 1973 convention and started their own festival in the fall each year, and the honor band took their place on the Saturday morning program. The band's inaugural performance was at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, February 23, 1974.

The TJCTA Years

1974

- **Band Chair: Dr. David Corder (Lee College)**
- **Honor Band Conductor: James Jacobsen (Director of Bands, Texas Christian University, 1955-1981)**
- **Guest Soloist: Richard Frazier (Wharton County Junior College)**
- **TJCTA Convention, San Antonio, February 23, 1974**

Under Dave Corder's leadership, in 1974, the first TJCTA All-State Honor Band was assembled with 114 students representing 18 colleges.

1. Alvin Jr. College (now Alvin Community College)
2. Blinn College
3. Grayson County College (now Grayson College)
4. Henderson County Jr. College (now Trinity Valley Community College)
5. Hill Jr. College (now Hill College)
6. Lee College
7. McLennan Community College
8. Navarro Jr. College (now Navarro College)
9. Odessa College
10. Panola Jr. College (now Panola College)
11. Paris Jr. College
12. Ranger Jr. College (now Ranger College)
13. Southwest Texas Jr. College
14. Temple Jr. College (now Temple College)
15. Texarkana College
16. Texas Southmost College
17. Victoria College
18. Wharton County Jr. College

As noted in the list above, many two-year colleges have changed their names in recent years, but for the accuracy of the record they will be referred to by the name in use in the year under discussion.

1975

- **Band Chair: Larry Campbell (Blinn College)**
- **Honor Band Conductor: Dr. Gary Garner (Director of Bands, West Texas A&M University, 1963-2002)**

- **Guest Soloist: Dr. Neil Humfeld (East Texas State University, 1958-1991)**
- **TJCTA Convention, Houston, February 22, 1975**

The concert took place on Saturday morning in the Grand Ballroom of the Shamrock Hilton in Houston, Texas. An LP recording was made of the concert, as it was for the first six years of the band's history. Larry Campbell recalled that the Alvin Jr. College Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Jerry Perkins also performed at the convention at various functions but did not perform with the Honor Band because of their own activities. Seventeen colleges participated with 137 students in the band, probably the largest honor band ever.

History of the Student Selection Process

As mentioned in David Corder's history, for the first few years the band was selected by each college director sending in a list of their top eight to ten players who formed the original honor bands. Larry Campbell stated that directors sent in a list of their better players giving information such as region, area, or state bands appeared in, and the Chair of the organization put together the instrumentation. Often some sections were larger than needed and others shorthanded, so phone calls were made to participating directors trying to find ways to balance the band. It was actually quite amazing that the instrumentation for those first years was still workable. Another factor, as it is still today, was how much funding colleges had to send students; consequently, some colleges had limited participation because of financial restrictions. Around 1977-79, discussions began on a better and more equitable way to select the band, resulting in a new audition process. The directors selected audition material for each instrument and sent the list of music to each college; the students then recorded their audition etudes on cassette tapes which were sent to the chairperson of the organization. After collecting all cassette tapes, the chair distributed them to the judges for the various instruments. This, of course, all took place through postal mail as the convenience and speed of email was still in the future. Many boxes of cassette tapes were going through the mail to make all of this happen. No record exists of the year this process was implemented. The 1980 honor band program, however, lists the directors who judged the recordings, so it was definitely in place for the 1979-80 honor band.

Issues sometimes arose when etude materials were not always readily available from all music suppliers. Directors therefore decided to use the same materials that TMEA used to make sure all books would be attainable. After a few more years of using the TMEA etude books but sometimes making different selections, the organization decided to adopt the same etudes and cuts, as is still done today.

1976

- **Band Chair: Dr. Charles McAdams (Brookhaven College)**
- **Honor Band Conductor: James Sudduth (Director of Bands, Southwest Texas State University and later Texas Tech University, 1981-1997)**
- **Student Soloist: Fred Sanchez (Bee County Jr. College)**
- **Select Honor Choir: Temple Junior College**
- **TJCTA Convention, Austin, March 5, 1976**

In 1976 a tradition began with the selection of a student soloist to perform with the Honor Band. Also for the first time the concert was moved to Friday night at the TJCTA Convention. This was also the first of seven consecutive years (1976-1982) that a community college choir was chosen to join the honor band on the Friday night concert and for a short program on the Saturday morning closing session of the TJCTA convention. The choirs usually performed and then joined the band in a combined work. There is an LP recording of this concert, but at this time no copy of the printed program has been found.

1977

- **Band Chair: Dr. David Corder (Lee College)**
- **Honor Band Conductor: James Matthews (Director of Bands, University of Houston, 1955-1982)**
- **Student Soloist: Rene Saenz (Wharton County Junior College)**
- **Select Honor Choir: San Jacinto College**
- **TJCTA Convention, Austin, April 1, 1977**

One interesting item of note, the students thought so much of their clinician, James Matthews, that they took up a collection and purchased a watch which they presented to Mr. Matthews at the evening concert on Friday night, the only time this was ever done.

1978

- **Band Chair: Dr. Jim Cargill (Brazosport College)**
- **Honor Band Conductor: Dr. Robert Winslow (Director of Bands, North Texas State University, 1975-1993)**
- **Student Soloist: Gail Smith (South Plains College)**
- **Select Honor Choir: Amarillo College**
- **TJCTA Convention, Houston, February 17, 1978**

The original program did not have the name of the student soloist or title of the piece, *Concertino for Flute* by Chaminade, listed, but the performance is on the LP recording of the concert. Gail Smith from South Plains College has since been identified as the soloist and the program corrected.

1979

- **Band Chair: Tommy Downing (Henderson County Junior College)**
- **Honor Band Conductor: Dr. Ralph Hale (Director of Bands, Christian Brothers High School, Memphis, Tennessee, 1947-1983)**
- **Student Soloist: Blaine Ichimura (Richland College)**
- **Select Honor Choir: Tarrant County Junior College Northeast**
- **TJCTA Convention, Dallas, February 23, 1979**

Dr. Ralph Hale from Christian Brothers High School in Memphis, Tennessee was the first of two out of state conductors asked to direct the Honor Band. This also marked the first commissioning by the all-state band; *March 6* composed by William Latham from North Texas State University premiered on February 23, 1979, commemorating the sixth year of the TJCTA Honor Band.

1980

- **Band Chair: Jerry Hale (Kilgore College)**
- **Honor Band Conductor: Dr. Ray Luke (Director of Bands and Orchestra, Oklahoma City University, 1962-1997)**
- **Student Soloist: Susan McCorquodale (San Jacinto College)**
- **Select Honor Choir: Richland College**
- **TJCTA Convention, Austin, February 22, 1980**

1981

- **Band Chair: Dr. David Corder (Lee College)**
- **Honor Band Conductor: Dr. Fisher A. Tull (Sam Houston State University, 1957-1994)**
- **Student Soloist: Carlton Hall (Wharton County Junior College)**
- **Select Honor Choir: Victoria College**
- **TJCTA Convention, Houston, March 6, 1981**

This year marked the largest number of colleges participating in the honor band at 24.

1982

- **Band Chair: Phillip Lowe (Hill Junior College)**
- **Honor Band Conductor: Howard Dunn (Director of Bands, Southern Methodist University, 1979-1990)**
- **Student Soloist: Alma Cantu (Alvin Community College)**
- **Select Honor Choir: Amarillo College**
- **TJCTA Convention, Dallas, February 19, 1982**

In 1982 the TJCTA Honor Band began the practice of having the band rehearse at the clinician/director's university campus. The TJCTA convention was held at the D-FW Airport Amfac Hotel. Because of logistical issues at the airport hotel, Howard Dunn helped arrange to have the band stay across the street from SMU's School of Music and to rehearse in their band hall until the performance at the D-FW airport AMFAC Hotel on Friday night.

1983

- **Band Chair: José Compean (Laredo Junior College)**
- **Honor Band Conductor: Dr. Thomas Lee (Director of Bands, University of Texas, 1973-1985)**
- **Student Soloist: Huascar Barradas (San Jacinto Central College)**
- **TJCTA Convention, Austin, February 25, 1983**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Rick Lawn (Director of Jazz Studies, University of Texas at Austin, 1980-2002)**

1983 marked the first year of the TJCTA Honor Jazz Ensemble and ended the tradition of a select honor choir performing with the band. The bands rehearsed at UT, university of the honor band's conductor.

1984

- **Band Chair: José Compean (Laredo Junior College)**
- **Honor Band Conductor: Eddie Green (Director of Bands, University of Houston, 1979-1999)**
- **Student Soloist:**
- **TJCTA Convention, Houston**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director:**

At present no program for 1984 can be located. As was done in the two previous years, the bands rehearsed at the conductor's home school, University of Houston. There is a cassette recording of the concert but no other information available at this time.

1985

- **Band Chair: Phillip Lowe (Hill Junior College)**
- **Honor Band Conductor: Dr. Robert Winslow (Director of Bands, North Texas State University, 1975-1993)**
- **Student Soloist: Danny Richardson (Hill Junior College)**
- **TJCTA Convention, Dallas, February 22, 1985**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Bill Snodgrass (University of Texas at Arlington, 1976-2004)**

1985 was the 12th and final year that the TJCTA Honor Band performed at the TJCTA convention. Because facilities were available at the convention hotel, the band returned to its former practice of rehearsing at the hotel. This year also marked Dr. Winslow's second time to conduct the Honor Band.

The Move to TMEA

Mark Rogers, band chair from South Plains College, notified the membership during the summer of 1985 that he was investigating the possibility of the honor band's performing at TMEA instead of TJCTA because the conventions were in the same week. With the support of Robert McElroy, TMEA President that year, the switch was made, and the bands played their premiere concert at TMEA on Friday night in the San Antonio Convention Center River Room. The bands rehearsed and were housed in the historic St. Anthony Hotel in San Antonio for that first year with TMEA.

1986

- **Band Chair: Mark Rogers (South Plains College)**
- **Honor Band Conductor: Glenn Richter (University of Texas, Long Horn Bands, 1980-1995)**
- **Student Soloist: Sharon Turner (Hill Junior College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 14, 1986**

- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Dr. Kent Kidwell (Director of Jazz Ensembles, University of Central Oklahoma, 1969-2014)**

The bands continued to perform at the TMEA Convention but only as an invited guest ensemble. This arrangement continued for the next seven years, but with continued pressure from Robert McElroy, Larry Campbell, Dave Corder, and others the Texas Junior College All State Ensembles were eventually allowed into TMEA.

1987

- **Band Chair: Larry Campbell (Blinn College)**
- **Concert Band Conductor: Dr. Gary Garner (Director of Bands, West Texas A&M University, 1963-2002)**
- **Student Soloist: Laura Shackelford (Blinn College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 13, 1987**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Sam Trimble (Director of Jazz Studies, University of Texas at El Paso, 1982-2012)**
- **Guest Jazz Soloist: Frank Romero**

In 1987 the names of the ensembles changed to the **Texas Junior College All State Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble** because they were no longer affiliated with TJCTA. Both ensembles performed on Friday night of the convention in the River Room.

1988

- **Band Chair: Dave Brodnax (Trinity Valley Community College)**
- **Concert Band Conductor: Robert Blanton (Director of Bands, Texas Christian University, 1982-1992)**
- **Student Soloist: Geoff Cuellar (San Jacinto Central College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 12, 1988**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Dr. Robert Morgan (Houston's High School for Performing and Visual Arts, 1976-1999)**
- **Guest Jazz Soloist: Dennis Dotson**

In 1988, the Texas Junior College All State Band and Jazz Ensemble performance was moved to the Fiesta Room but remained on Friday night. The band directors association began a new procedure, having the executive chair serve a two-year term.

1989

- **Band Chair: Dave Brodnax (Trinity Valley Community College)**
- **Concert Band Conductor: Michael Haithcock (Director of Bands, Baylor University, 1982-2001)**
- **Student Soloist: Bill Holt (Blinn College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 10, 1989**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: G. Darrell Holt (Director of Jazz Studies, Stephen F. Austin University, 1969-1999)**
- **Guest Jazz Soloist: Rene Saenz**

Michael Haithcock, for the first of two times, conducted the All State Concert Band. Both all-state ensembles performed on Friday night in the Fiesta Room.

1990

- **Band Chair: Gary Jordan (Tyler Junior College)**
- **Concert Band Conductor: John C. Stansberry (Director of Bands, Southwest Texas State University, 1981-2006)**
- **Student Soloist: Irene Tron (San Jacinto Central College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 9, 1990**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: James Riggs (Jazz Studies, University of North Texas, 1973-2008)**

1991

- **Band Chair: Dave Brodnax (Trinity Valley Community College)**
- **Concert Band Conductor: Dr. Barry W. Johnson (Director of Bands, Lamar University, 1985-2000)**
- **Student Soloist: David Massingill (South Plains College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 8, 1991**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Dr. J. Wayne Dyess (Jazz Studies, Lamar University, 1977-2013)**
- **Guest Jazz Soloists: Dr. J. Wayne Dyess and Dr. Jimmy Simmons**

Gary Jordan, the previous band chair, left Tyler Junior College, so Dave Brodnax returned as chair for one year. The Texas Junior College Band Directors Association commissioned Shelton Berg (Director of Bands at San Jacinto College Central and now Dean of the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami) to write *Man-Tuna* for the Jazz Ensemble.

1992

- **Band Chair: Larry Campbell (Blinn College)**
- **Concert Band Conductor: Dr. Gary Sousa (Director of Bands, Sam Houston State University, 1988-1997)**
- **Student Soloist: Sheryl Little (San Jacinto Central College)**
- **Holiday Inn Riverwalk, San Antonio, February 7, 1992**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Rod Cannon (Director of Jazz Studies, Sam Houston State University, 1977-2013)**

The year 1992 began a transitional period for the Texas Junior College All State Bands and their relationship with TMEA. Although TMEA had allowed the bands to perform at the convention center on Friday nights, they still officially were not a part of the organization. Because of the remodeling at the San Antonio Convention Center, TMEA did not give the Texas Junior College All State Bands a performance venue at the Convention Center, so the rehearsals and concert were held in the Holiday Inn Riverwalk Ballroom on Friday at 4:30 p.m. However, TMEA did allow the concerts to be listed in the convention magazine, and with flyers posted at the convention registration area there was an audience of 100-200.

1993

- **Band Chair: Larry Campbell (Blinn College)**
- **Concert Band Conductor: Dr. Robert Winslow (Director of Bands, University of North Texas, 1975-1993)**
- **Student Soloist: Jeff Saunders (Blinn College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 12, 1993**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Noe J. Marmolejo (Director of Jazz Studies, University of Houston, 1983-present)**

TMEA gave the Texas Junior College All State Concert Band the opportunity to return to the Fiesta Room at the Convention Center but now on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. However, the Jazz Ensemble, because of time restrictions in the Fiesta Room, had to perform on Friday night in the Hilton Palacio del Rio. This marked the third time that Dr. Robert Winslow conducted the Concert Band. One other interesting anecdote from that year concerned the hotel and rehearsal arrangements. As mentioned, in earlier years the Texas Junior College All State Bands did not have a permanent hotel, moving to whatever hotel would take them. In 1993, the location was the Plaza Hotel, which is now the Marriott Plaza San Antonio Hotel. When the bands arrived on Wednesday to begin chair tryouts and rehearsals, the hotel informed the directors that they had double booked the large meeting room which was going to be the rehearsal space and planned to move the concert band to their tennis courts outside to rehearse. After some very intense

negotiations, the hotel allowed the concert band to rehearse inside in their large meeting room and moved the other group.

The Radisson Hotel San Antonio Market Square Years 1994-2008

1994

- **Band Chair: Gary Liebst (North Harris College)**
- **Concert Band Conductor: Dr. Gary Garner (Director of Bands, West Texas A&M University, 1963-2002)**
- **Student Soloist: April Wright (San Jacinto Central College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 12, 1994**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Dr. Keith Winking (Director of Jazz Studies, Southwest Texas State University, 1988-present)**

After many years of being in flux with a rehearsal space, in 1994 the Radisson Hotel San Antonio Market Square was determined by TMEA as the bands' new home. This year also marked the second time the Texas Junior College All State Band Directors commissioned a work for the Concert Band. Dr. Lawrence Weiner, Corpus Christi A&M University, wrote *Concert Etude* commemorating the All State Band's 20th anniversary. Also the two ensembles were reunited and performed in the Fiesta Room at the San Antonio Convention Center on Saturday afternoon.

1995

- **Band Chair: Gary Liebst (North Harris College)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Dr. Kevin Sedatole (Associate Director of Bands, Stephen F. Austin University, 1991-1996)**
- **Student Soloist: Leslie McMurrey (Lee College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 11, 1995**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Dr. Mike Steinel (Jazz Studies, University of North Texas, 1987-present)**

1995 was the first year the band was referred to as the Texas Junior College All State **Symphonic** Band.

TMEA Final Acceptance

During the summer following the 1992 convention, Band Chair Larry Campbell from Blinn College and Student Selection Chair Gary Liebst from North Harris College made a trip to Austin to meet with the TMEA board, requesting that the Texas Junior College Bands be made a part of the TMEA family. After a masterful job in the presentation and the constant pressure during the prior seven years, the Texas Junior College All State Bands organization was officially admitted into the TMEA family in 1993. It should be noted that ATSSB, Association of Texas Small School Bands, also struggled during this time to be accepted into TMEA. For the Texas Junior College All State Bands, full acceptance came slowly as Jim Stubbs, former director at Navarro College, reported: "Even though the bands were allowed to perform at TMEA, a hotel for lodging and rehearsal space was never included in the TMEA block of hotels." The bands were basically nomads moving from one hotel to another each year. Gary Liebst from North Harris College, chair of the organization starting in 1994 and Jim Stubbs, Navarro College, both recalled driving around San Antonio with Robert Floyd looking for a permanent rehearsal venue for the bands with choices being an old movie theater with the windows all broken out or the Shriners' basement bowling alley. Those choices were vetoed, and finally after a few years a more permanent hotel was secured.

1996

- **Band Chair: Jim Stubbs (Navarro College)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Ray C. Lichtenwalter (Director of Bands, University of Texas at Arlington, 1967-2004)**
- **Student Soloist: Daniel Danvers (Del Mar College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 17, 1996**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Alan D. Shinn (Jazz Studies, Texas Tech University, 1985-2005)**
- **Guest Jazz Soloist: Jeff Jarvis**

Once again both concerts were on Saturday, Jazz Ensemble at 12:00 p.m. and Symphonic Band at 2:00 p.m. in the Fiesta Room.

1997

- **Band Chair: Jim Stubbs (Navarro College)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Richard Floyd (State Director of Music Activities for the UIL, 1984-2013)**

- **Student Soloist: Richard Anderson (Laredo Junior College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 15, 1997**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Jeff Hellmer (Jazz Studies, University of Texas at Austin, 1996-present)**
- **Guest Jazz Soloist: Denis DiBlasio**

This year produced another interesting chapter in the bands' history when again the hotel double booked the large meeting room which served as the rehearsal room for the symphonic band. For one day the symphonic band moved to a mariachi hall on San Antonio's west side to rehearse, quite an adventure. Luckily the clinician Dick Floyd was a great sport about the situation, and he and the band made the most of the unique rehearsal space. However, Jim Stubbs did report that there was a squabble between TMEA and the Radisson over paying for the ballroom that wasn't used that day but charged to TMEA. It was settled several months later to everyone's satisfaction.

1998

- **Band Chair: Jim Stubbs (Navarro College)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Glen Richter (University of Texas at Austin, Long Horn Band, 1979-1995)**
- **Student Soloist: Harold Lowes (Blinn College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 14, 1998**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Bill Snodgrass (University of Texas at Arlington, 1976-2004)**
- **Guest Jazz Soloist: Mike Bogle**

During the summer 1997 meeting of the Texas Community College All-State Band Directors at TBA the directors present learned that several officers, including the incoming chair, had left their positions and there was a need to reorganize quickly. Jim Stubbs, who had chaired the organization for the past two years, graciously agreed to take over leadership again for a third year and a new executive committee was quickly assembled.

In the February meeting at TMEA a new re-organization plan was submitted and approved as follows:

- Chair
- Student Selection Chair
- Secretary/Treasure
- Concert Band Organizer
- Jazz Band Organizer

- Repertoire Chair

Each officer was to serve for two years.

Concert Band instrumentation upper limits were also voted on and approved as follows:

- Piccolo 1
- Flute 12
- Oboe 2
- Bassoon 4
- E♭ Clarinet 1
- B♭ Clarinet 24
- Bass Clarinet 4
- Contra Clarinet 2
- Alto Sax 4
- Tenor Sax 2
- Bari Sax 1
- Trumpet 12
- Horn 8
- Trombone 6
- Bass Trombone 2
- Euphonium 4
- Tuba 6
- Percussion 8
- String Bass 1

1999

- **Band Chair: Ronnie Todd (Tyler Junior College)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Bobby Francis (Texas A&M University-Commerce, 1994-2000, Texas Christian University, 2000-present)**
- **Student Soloist: David Applegate (Tyler Junior College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 6, 1999**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Paul Hageman (Texas A&M-Kingsville, 1983-present)**
- **Guest Jazz Soloist: James Warth**

The concert location was moved to the North Banquet Hall at the convention center. This also marked the year that the name was officially changed to the **Texas Community College All State Symphonic Band & Texas Community College All State Jazz Ensemble**, replacing

“Junior” with “Community.” The directors approved adding the position of **Seating Audition Organizer** to the slate of officers.

2000

- **Band Chair: Ronnie Todd (Tyler Junior College)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Robert McElroy (Conductor of the Houston Symphonic Band, 1984-2014)**
- **Student Soloist: Erin Kutschbach (Temple College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, Texas February 12, 2000**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Dr. Mike Steinel (Jazz Studies, University of North Texas, 1987-present)**

Mike Steinel from UNT returned as the director of the Jazz Ensemble with no guest soloist. Also Stephen Crawford from Temple College directed a percussion ensemble in two works on the concert. With more additions to the San Antonio Convention Center the concerts were now moved to Room 214-A, B, C, D. In the directors' meeting at TMEA it was agreed that the names of our organization would now be the **Texas Community College Band Directors Association All State Symphonic Band** and **Texas Community College Band Directors Association All State Jazz Ensemble**, titles used since the 2000 printed program. Other organizational changes included adding a **Percussion Organizer** to the slate of officers and a Chair Elect beginning in 2001. The year 2000 also marked the first **Code of Conduct** for the TCCBDA All-State Ensembles as follows:

Through participation with TCCBDA All-State Festival Bands, students signify that they recognize the authority of their individual colleges in governing their actions in relation to the college, and they automatically agree to abide by any regulation concerning students set up by their college and/or its representatives.

The underage possession of alcoholic beverages and/or the use or possession of controlled substances will be cause for disciplinary action and possible dismissal from the All State Festival Ensembles.

Any action by one or more individuals, whether students or non-students that interferes with the orderly operation, rehearsal, and/concerts will be the cause of disciplinary action.

2001

- **Band Chair: Lynda Reid (South Plains College)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Michael Haithcock (Director of Bands, Baylor University, 1982-2001)**
- **Student Soloist: Julie Plaivech (Del Mar College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 10, 2001**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Curt Wilson (Director of Jazz Studies, Texas Christian University, 1976-2011)**

Michael Haithcock from Baylor University returned for his second time as conductor of the Symphonic Band. The Percussion Ensemble directed by Jeremy Kushner from Laredo College performed for the second and final time. The use of the Percussion Ensemble served two purposes for those years. One was to give the percussionists some extra time and performance opportunities outside of the Symphonic Band rehearsals. Second, because the Jazz Ensemble and Symphonic Band followed each other in the same performance location, it helped fill the hour between the concerts. Beginning in 2002, the performance area was changed to Ballroom A with less time between programs, so the Percussion Ensemble was eliminated.

2002

- **Band Chair: Lynda Reid (South Plains College)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Eugene Corporon (Director of Bands, University of North Texas, 1993-present)**
- **Student Soloist: none**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 23, 2002**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Rick Lawn (Director of Jazz Studies, University of Texas at Austin, 1980-2002)**

Rick Lawn from the University of Texas at Austin returned for his second time to direct the Jazz Ensemble. For the first time since being instituted in 1976, no student soloist was selected to perform with the Symphonic Band and there was no guest artist with the Jazz Ensemble. The membership also voted to begin the process of writing a constitution, including procedures, eligibility, etc. The committee appointed was Andy Russell (Del Mar College), Lynda Reid (South Plains College), Ronnie Todd (Tyler Junior College), Jill Stewart (Blinn College), Jim Stubbs (Navarro College), and Craig Garrett (Blinn College). Although the intent was for the constitution to be completed in a year, the writing actually took 9 years. Dave Corder was elected as **Historian** and asked to assemble historical information. It was recommended that the Music Organizer select cuts for chair auditions rather than mailing all music to band members prior to

the convention. Membership also approved the use of CDs as an option for audition recordings along with cassette tapes.

2003

- **Band Chair: Andy Russell (Del Mar College)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Fred Allen (Director of Bands, Stephen F. Austin University, 1994-present)**
- **Student Soloist: Heather King (Navarro College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 15, 2003**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Alan D. Shinn (Jazz Studies, Texas Tech University, 1985-2005)**
- **Guest Jazz Soloist: Freddie Mendoza**

Alan Shinn from Texas Tech University returned for his second time to direct the Jazz Ensemble. 2003 marked another unusual situation for the organization. Because of preparations for what was later called Operation Iraqi Freedom, troops were staying in the Radisson Hotel in San Antonio waiting for deployment to Iraq, leaving no rooms available for students. Consequently arrangements were made for the bands to practice at the Radisson as they had for the past nine years, but housing was in another hotel on the north side of San Antonio. Students were bused back and forth to rehearsals. The Radisson offered a free shuttle service for our students, and it worked out well despite the amount of traveling from one hotel to the other. Also in 2003 the **TCCBDA All-State Ensembles Rules for Eligibility** were added to the **Student Code of Conduct** as follows:

In order for a student to be eligible to audition for the TCCBDA All-State organization, they must meet the following requirements:

- *The sponsoring director must be a current active member of TMEA.*
- *The student must be certified by his/her TMEA active member director as a viable member of the school's parent group during both the semester of the audition (fall) and the TMEA activity (spring).*
- *The student may not participate as a member of the Community College All-State organizations, in any combination, for more than three years.*

“The Texas Community College Band Directors Association reserves the right to deny membership in the all-state ensemble to students from institutions which refuse to provide qualified personnel to assist with the band audition procedure at the convention site in San Antonio.”

2004

- **Band Chair: Andy Russell (Del Mar College)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Matthew McInturf (Director of Bands, Sam Houston State University, 1999-present)**
- **Student Soloist: Doug Lomax (Blinn College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 14, 2004**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Dr. Deb Scott (Director of Jazz Band, Stephen F. Austin State University, 2000-present)**
- **Guest Jazz Soloist: Shelley Carrol**

It should be noted that Dr. Deb Scott was the first and only conductor of either of the TCCBDA all state ensembles who had originally been a director of a Texas community college band. She previously was Director of Bands at Wharton County Jr. College and a member of TCCBDA prior to taking her position at SFA.

2005

- **Band Chair: Jill Stewart (Blinn College)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Dr. Rod Schueller (Director of Bands, Texas State University, 2003-2011)**
- **Student Soloist: Matt Thomas (Victoria College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 12, 2005**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Neil Slater (Director of Jazz Studies, University of North Texas, 1981-2008)**
- **Guest Jazz Soloist: James Riggs**

In the 2005 business meeting the suggested instrumentation for the Symphonic Band was changed to have four alto sax, two tenor sax, and two bari sax. There was much discussion at the directors' meeting about finding a hotel closer to the convention center to make it easier for the students and directors to attend convention activities. Jill Stewart was still working on a constitution for the organization. It was also decided to change the name of the "chair" to "president" and to add the position of Past President to the list of officers. Probably one of the most important events in TCCBDA history was the creation of a website by Brian Harris, McLennan Community College, in the fall of 2004. For the first time the organization had a place to obtain information, updates, forms, schedules, archives, etc. Many thanks to Brian Harris for his diligent work to make this happen.

2006

- **President: Jill Stewart (Blinn College)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Dr. Kevin Sedatole (Director of Bands, Baylor University, 2002-2006)**
- **Student Soloist: Clay Garrett (Tyler Junior College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 18, 2006**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Alex Parker (Director of Jazz Studies, Baylor University, 2001-present)**

In Jill Stewart's second year of leadership, 2006, we officially changed the name of TCCBDA's leader from "Chair" to "President," so Jill Stewart became the first to carry that title. Kevin Sedatole, now at Baylor University, came for the second time to conduct the Symphonic Band. Also at the 2006 concert a plaque was presented to Dr. David Corder, the "Founding Father" of TCCBDA in recognition of his vision and dedication to the TCCBDA organization. The plaque read:

The Texas Community College Band Directors Association

presents this award to

Dave Corder

in appreciation for his years

of service and dedication to the

Community College All-State Bands

TMEA Convention

February 18, 2006

2007

- **President: Dr. Brian Harris (McLennan Community College)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Dr. Barry Kraus (Assistant Director of Bands, Baylor University, 2002-2008)**
- **Student Soloist: Brandon Quam (Blinn College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 17, 2007**

- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Brad Leali (Director of Jazz Studies, Texas Tech University, 2005-2008)**
- **Guest Jazz Soloist: Claus Raible**

At the business meeting it was announced that there was a possibility of a move to the Drury Inn Plaza Hotel in 2008, although this move did not occur. Also a much more detailed **Student Code of Conduct** was approved and is still in use.

2008

- **President: Dr. Brian Harris (McLennan Community College)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Robert McElroy (Conductor of the Houston Symphonic Band, 1984-2014)**
- **Student Soloist: Hong-Da Chin (Del Mar College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 16, 2008**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Tim Ishi (Director of Jazz Studies, University of Texas at Arlington, 2004-present)**

2008 marked the move by TMEA to Ballroom B for the TCCBDA concerts, which has been their performance location to the present.

2009

- **President: Will Fairbanks (Trinity Valley Community College)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Fred Allen (Director of Bands, Stephen F. Austin University, 1994-present)**
- **Student Soloist: Mark Stansel (McLennan Community College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 14, 2009**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Dr. Mike Steinel (Jazz Studies, University of North Texas, 1987-present)**

Fred Allen conducted the Symphonic Band for the second time, and Dr. Steinel from the University of North Texas returned for the third time to direct the Jazz Ensemble. It was announced at the TCCBDA business meeting at TMEA that the new Constitution for TCCBDA would be ready for discussion at TBA in July and would be voted on at the 2010 TMEA convention. After discussion the directors decided that a student could compete and perform as student soloist for a second time. After many years of asking TMEA for a hotel closer to the convention center, the organization finally had its new home in 2009 when the TCCBDA

ensembles made the move to the Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio Riverwalk where the bands have been since.

Finally the Move to the Drury Plaza Hotel

2010

- **President: Will Fairbanks (Trinity Valley Community College)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Dr. Gary Garner (Director of Bands, West Texas A&M University, 1963-2002)**
- **Student Soloist: Steven Scott (Blinn College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 13, 2010**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Dr. Keith Winking (Director of Jazz Studies, Southwest Texas State University, 1988-present)**

2010 marked Dr. Gary Garner's fourth time to conduct the Symphonic Band. Dr. Garner, now retired from West Texas A&M University, directed the band in four different decades (1970's, 1980's, 1990's, & 2010's) making him the most often requested conductor of the TCCBDA Symphonic Band throughout its history. In the TCCBDA business meeting at TMEA the membership voted and approved the **Texas Community College Band Directors Association Constitution and the Policies and Procedures**, two important documents for the organization. Also Larry Campbell, former Director of Bands at Blinn College and original charter member of TCCBDA in 1974, was awarded a plaque during the concert in recognition of his service and dedication to the organization. The plaque read:

The Texas Community College Band Directors Association

presents this award to

Larry Campbell

in appreciation for his years

of service and dedication to the

Community College All-State Bands

TMEA Convention

February 13, 2010

2011

- **President: David Griffith (Alvin Community College)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Dr. J. Eric Wilson (Director of Bands, Baylor University, 2006-present)**
- **Student Soloist: Megan O'Donnell (Temple College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 12, 2011**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Curt Wilson (Director of Jazz Studies, Texas Christian University, 1976-2011)**
- **Guest Jazz Soloist: Joe Eckert**

Curt Wilson from Texas Christian University made his second appearance directing the Jazz Ensemble.

2012

- **President: David Griffith (Alvin Community College)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Dr. Sarah McKoin (Director of Bands, Texas Tech University, 2005-present)**
- **Student Soloist: Tyler Simon (Lone Star College-Montgomery)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 12, 2011**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Steve Wiest (Director of Jazz Studies, University of North Texas, 2007-2014)**

2013

- **President: Dr. Brack May (Lone Star College-North Harris)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Robert McElroy (Conductor of the Houston Symphonic Band, 1984-2014)**
- **Student Soloist: Nigel Yarbrough (Blinn College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 16, 2013**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Jeff Hellmer (Jazz Studies, University of Texas at Austin, 1996-present)**

2013 marked the 40th year of Texas Community College All State Band with all of its various names and affiliations. Robert McElroy, Conductor Emeritus of the Houston Symphonic Band, conducted the Symphonic Band for his third time.

2014

- **President: Dr. Brack May (Lone Star College-North Harris)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Matthew McInturf (Director of Bands, Sam Houston State University, 1999-present)**
- **Student Soloist: Nigel Yarbrough (Blinn College)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 15, 2014**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Tim Ishi (Director of Jazz Studies, University of Texas at Arlington, 2004-present)**

Matthew McInturf, Sam Houston State University, returned for his second time as conductor of the Symphonic Band and for the first time in the history of the TCCBDA Student Soloist Competition there was a repeat winner with Nigel Yarbrough from Blinn College. Tim Ishii from the University of Texas at Arlington also returned for his second time to direct the Jazz Ensemble.

2015

- **President: Brent Colwell (Temple College)**
- **Symphonic Band Conductor: Bobby Francis (Texas Christian University, 2000-present)**
- **Student Soloist: Kahlil Pinson (Lone Star College North Harris)**
- **TMEA Convention, San Antonio, February 14, 2015**
- **Jazz Ensemble Director: Alex Parker (Director of Jazz Studies, Baylor University, 2001-present)**

This was the second time for Bobby Francis to conduct the Symphonic Band and for Alex Parker with the Jazz Ensemble. After two years of testing Dropbox as a method of sending audition recordings, the organization decided at the TMEA directors' meeting that Dropbox would be the official method for sending all digital recordings for judging.