

Jeffrey Meyer, D.M.A.  
Assistant Professor of Music/Director of Bands  
Report to Teaching Council of Sul Ross State University

On Wednesday, March 21, 2018 through Saturday, March 24, I attended the College Band Director's National Association Southwestern Division Conference in Houston, Texas, on the campus of the University of Houston. This was a tremendous learning and networking experience for me, as a conductor and teacher.

The opening Wednesday night's event was a concert by the Baylor Symphonic Band, directed by Isaiah Odajima and J. Eric Wilson. They performed some intriguing and notable compositions by Kenneth Hesketh, Andrew Boss, David Biedenbender, and others.

On Thursday morning, I attended a session by Dr. Lamb titled "How mindsets affect meaningful connections with every student at every rehearsal." Dr. Lamb reviewed the book *Mindset* by Carol Dweck and discussed her concept of a growth mindset vs. a fixed mindset, how to identify these types in the classroom or rehearsal, and how a growth mindset is the ideal condition in which to learn and teach. I can immediately see that discussing these mindsets will be invaluable to my students and ensemble members.

Continuing in the morning I went to a lively session titled "Artistic yet Accessible Chamber Winds," where I met some likeminded colleagues and discovered, among other things, the Jim Cochran Chamber Winds Commissioning Project, as well as some useful chamber works that our ensemble may study and perform this year by composers such as Warlock, Ferenc, Schmidt, Fukushima, and Hovhaness.

After the morning sessions, we headed to the Cullen Performance Hall for the Conducting Workshop, where four graduate student conductors worked with the Intercollegiate Band on repertoire by Grainger and Ticheli, coached by Jerry Junkin (UTA Wind Ensemble), Eugene Corporon (UNT Wind Orchestra), and composer Frank Ticheli. It was a fine rehearsal and the comments generally reinforced my own pedagogy with regards to conducting, which was heartening.

After lunch, I heard the Wichita State University Wind Ensemble, directed by Timothy Shade, performing works by Leshnoff, Perrine, Iannaccone, and Maslanka. Then I heard the Arkansas Tech Symphonic Wind Ensemble, directed by Daniel Belongia, performing works by Magnuson and Ticheli, with soloists Sean Reed, trombone, and Christopher Harris, baritone. Lastly, I heard the Texas Tech University Wind Ensemble, directed by Sarah McKoin, performing works of Lindveit, Dorman, Maslanka, Colgrass, and Bernstein, featuring the Mirasol Saxophone Quartet. These inspiring concerts gave me a good idea of what these groups are currently studying and the concepts and ideas that I should be sharing with and imparting to my ensembles and students here at Sul Ross.

The next day I attended (and participated in) the poster session, with analyses of various major compositions and fascinating pedagogical topics. Most notably, using digital audio workstation software and spectral analyses to study and analyze rehearsal and performance recordings. The first morning lecture was on Stravinsky's *Symphonies of Wind Instruments*, followed by a Composer Panel with Magnuson, Perrine, and Lindveit, whose music I heard the previous day. I got a lot out of the composer panel that I incorporated into my composition teaching this past Spring semester. The concerts for Friday included the Wind Ensembles of Tulsa University, Missouri State University, and concluding with the University of Houston, the latter of which performed Frank Ticheli's new *Flute Concerto* and a new arrangement by Paul Lavender of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, which is based on the ubiquitous Maurice Ravel orchestral version.

On Saturday morning, I went to an open rehearsal and panel discussion with flutist Jim Walker, conductor David Klemmer, and composer Frank Ticheli on his new *Concerto* for Flute and Wind Ensemble, performed by the University of Houston Wind Ensemble. Following this session, I heard my students perform in the Intercollegiate Band Concert, and the conference ended with the Texas State University Wind Symphony, directed by Caroline Beatty, performing works by Adams, Maslanka, Ippolito, and Reed, with guest conductor Kyle Glaser. I left the conference recharged in my endeavors to lead our collegiate band program here at SRSU. I truly wish to thank the SRSU Teaching Council for allowing me to participate in this engaging and inspiring developmental event.