

Inaugural Morningside Concert Band Festival

April 16 **Middle School ensembles**

April 17 **High School ensembles**

I would like to cordially invite you to the inaugural Morningside Concert Band Festival. This two-day non-competitive event features both middle school and high school ensembles and is designed to provide educational focus and opportunities for your ensemble.

The event will feature middle school ensembles on Thursday, April 16th and high school ensembles on Friday, April 17th. Times will be available in the morning and afternoon depending on the amount of entries (possibly into the evening if required). We will do our best to accommodate any special requests to include your ensemble. Festival entry fees and deadlines are located on the application and on our website: morningside.edu/concert-band-festival

Your schedule will consist of a warmup time in our ensemble room, follow by a performance and clinic on the main stage of beautiful Epley Auditorium. Your ensemble will receive taped comments and a clinic with one of our outstanding clinicians. We are also working to secure a conducting critique for you as the conductor of the group if you desire.

Our clinicians for this year's event are:

Dr. Gary W. Hill — Professor of Music and Director of Bands Emeritus at Arizona State University, where he taught from 1999-2019 — is one of the most sought-after guest conductors and clinicians in the instrumental music education field. As a conductor, appearances in more than a dozen countries and throughout the United States have included performances with myriad high school honor bands, numerous college and university wind bands and orchestras, many professional ensembles, at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic, and at World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles' conferences. As a clinician, Hill has presented hundreds of workshops on conducting and rehearsal technique for music teachers of all levels and has worked with thousands of bands and orchestras and their teachers. Professor Hill is currently a Conn-Selmer Educational Clinician.

During Professor Hill's 39 years as a collegiate conducting teacher, he taught scores of undergraduate and graduate conducting students and served as the primary mentor for 53 wind band conducting majors, 8 who are serving as conductors of US Armed Forces' ensembles and other professional groups, and 42 who won university teaching positions.

David Morrison

David Morrison received his Bachelor's and Master's degree in Music Education from the University of Illinois. In 1977 he was appointed Director of Bands at Prospect High School in Mt. Prospect, Illinois, where he developed and maintained a nationally recognized band program for 29 years. After retirement from Prospect High School, Mr. Morrison served as adjunct music faculty for Northern Illinois University, VanderCook College of Music, and DePaul University, and he served as interim conductor of the Illinois Wesleyan University Wind Ensemble. Mr. Morrison most recently served as conductor of the

University of Illinois at Chicago Concert Band and as a director at the nationally acclaimed McCracken Middle School.

Mr. Morrison's honors include the Citation of Excellence from the National Band Association, the Phi Beta Mu National Band Director's Honorary Fraternity, and the Outstanding Chicagoland Music Educator Award. In 2003, Mr. Morrison was honored as the State of Illinois Teacher of the Year. More recently, he was inducted into the Phi Beta Mu Bandmaster's Hall of Fame at Northwestern University. He received the John Paynter Lifetime Achievement Award and was awarded the John Philip Sousa Foundation Legion of Honor. Mr. Morrison continues to guest conduct, clinic, and adjudicate music groups throughout the U.S. and the world. Mr. Morrison has written a book on teaching band, "The Band Whisperer," to be published in the Fall of 2019.

Matt Sheppard

Matt Sheppard is a recently retired instrumental music educator, having taught 30 years in the public schools in Grand Island (NE) and Omaha (Millard and Westside). Matt is currently a guest artist/private lesson instructor with the Omaha Public Schools.

Matt and his wife, Barb, are Tour Directors for the Nebraska Ambassadors of Music. This group embarks on a 16-day summer performance tour of Europe every two years. Matt has served as the Chair of Auditions and Chair of Band Affairs for the Nebraska State Music Educators Association. Currently, he serves the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association as Sponsor and Exhibit Chair. Previously, he served NSBA as Public Relations Chair and Middle Level Chair, organizing the 8th Grade All-State Band. He is a Past-President of NSBA and a Past-President of the Nebraska chapter of Phi Beta Mu, an honorary band director fraternity.

Mr. Sheppard is an active clinician and adjudicator of concert band, marching band and solo/ensemble festivals in Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota. Matt performs with the Prague (NE) Czech Brass Band, the Nebraska Czech Brass Band (Omaha) and the Nebraska Brass Band.

It is our hope that you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity so that we may provide and grow this event in future years. At Morningside, it is our goal to provide incredible musical experiences for both our students and regional music programs.

If you have any questions, please email me at macklins@morningside.edu or by calling at (712)274-5206.