



Lori Hart, President  
Keith Anderson, President Elect.  
Will Mixon, Recording Secretary  
Doug Farris, Executive Secretary

lorihart@gcboe.net  
kanderson@madisoncity.k12.al.us  
wmixon@gsboe.org  
execsec@alabandmasters.com

Hello everyone!

If I have learned anything from my association with band directors over the past “umpteen” years it is “When the going gets tough, the tough get going!” With the cancellation of AMEA Conference, each of the performing groups were either able to perform just prior to their concert or after the cancellation. So I encourage you all to reach out to Graham Bennett, John Cain, Matthew Chambliss, Justin Compton, Latrice Green, Meredyth Petersen, Jacob Souder and Casey Thomas and express how much we appreciate what they and their students did to prepare for this event. I am sure this would mean a great deal to each of them, knowing you took the time to show your support of their efforts. Afterall, if we don’t lift each other up, then who will?

Speaking of lifting others up, join me in congratulating these outstanding band programs that recently participated or have been selected to perform in several national events. The Alabama A&M University “Maroon and White Marching Band” were given the prestigious honor of leading the 2023 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade this past November. The Hoover High School “First Edition” Jazz Band made its 3rd appearance at The Midwest Clinic in December 2023. The Albertville High School “Aggie Marching Band” along with the University of Alabama “Million Dollar Marching Band”, performed in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, CA, in January 2024. The Troy University Symphony Band, the Huntsville High School Wind Ensemble, and the Auburn Junior High School Wind Ensemble have been selected to perform at the 2024 CBDNA/NBA Southern Division Conference to be held February 29 – March 2, 2024 at the University of Memphis.

In looking forward, I am excited about several of our upcoming ABA events. This year we move to our new concert band Music Performance Assessment format, by using the new cumulative music list based upon levels. Please make sure you are using that list to choose your list piece. Also, take a moment to look at the Sight-reading guidelines, the adjudication rubric, and other general information that is available on our website.

Another new event for ABA, is our Jazz Music Performance Assessment. The Jazz MPA Registration is now open in the Members Area of [alaband.org](http://alaband.org). Thompson High School has agreed to be our host site this year, and the event will take place on Thursday April 18. All information pertaining to classification of bands, expectations and the rubric are also posted on the website under the Jazz Division tab.

I am extremely excited about the 2024 All-State Band and Solo Festival. I encourage your students to participate in the Solo Festival. It is such a wonderful opportunity for musical growth! We are fortunate to have five incredible conductors for our All-State Bands this year. Dr. Paula Crider was scheduled to conduct the Red Band, but a recent PET scan revealed that her cancer has returned and she is having to cancel all of her spring engagements. Please join with me in sending prayers for complete healing for this precious lady. Mr. Richard Floyd will step in as our Red Band Conductor and Dr. Sue Samuels will replace him as our White Band Conductor. Carol Brittan Chambers will conduct the Blue Band, Cheryl Floyd will conduct the Middle School Red Band and Mickey Smith, Jr will be the Middle School White Band Conductor. We have several clinics scheduled and great exhibits to keep everyone engaged in all things Band!

Best wishes for a successful concert season and I will see you all in Huntsville!

*Lori Hart*