

Learning from Legends: A Conversation with Kim Bain and Donald Dowdy

Moderated by Keith Anderson

Clinic Synopsis:

This clinic session brings together two veteran middle school band directors whose decades in the classroom shaped generations of young musicians. In this candid, story-driven panel, they share the practical strategies, hard-earned lessons, and defining moments that built successful programs and lasting student impact. Attendees—whether teaching middle or high school—will gain actionable insights on fundamentals, rehearsal efficiency, student motivation, and program culture, along with perspective on what truly matters over a career in music education.

Solo to Ensemble: Harnessing Peer Power for Program Growth

Heather Henson

Clinic Synopsis:

This session will show strategies for lone or small program directors to implement a student-to-student mentoring program in order to create additional "staff." In addition to using students to assist, we will also show how using alumni, community, and director-to-director mentoring can exponentially accelerate individual and program growth for students and directors. Whether you are a solo head director or not, making the most of peer power can take the pressure off in so many ways!

Mischief Managed - Harmonizing Procedures, Engagement and Instruction

Emily Parker and Jenney Merritt

Clinic Synopsis:

The purpose of this clinic is to provide innovative solutions that have been cultivated through years of experience that could be instantly implemented in band rooms. By utilizing these creative ideas, classroom management and student engagement are instantly improved and rehearsals are more productive. Our proactive approach to classroom management provides valuable information and ideas for new and veteran teachers alike