Band Director Workshop

Friday, October 30, 2026
McCracken Middle School
Skokie, Illinois

Barry Houser
Christopher Gonzales
David Morrison
Kelley Gossler

University of Illinois
Wind Orchestra

McCracken Middle School
Symphonic Band

2026

IGSMA

Illinois Grade School Music Association
Northern Division
Since 1939

A tradition of excellence for more than 75 years!

Solo & Ensemble

Organization Contests/Festivals

All-Illinois Junior Band

The Illinois Grade School Music Association, Northern Division, is dedicated to encourage, aid, and advance music education in the elementary, middle and junior high schools of the State of Illinois. IGSMA sponsors contests among school bands, orchestras, and choruses, including solos and ensembles. The year culminates with a final organization contest/festival.

Why Become a Member?

Adult professionals, dedicated to providing valuable and meaningful feedback for both students and directors, serve as adjudicators. IGSMA, Northern Division, is divided into nine districts making contest site locations convenient. Participation in IGSMA supports statewide advocacy for music education at the elementary and middle school levels.

"Out of all of the activities I do with my students throughout the school year, without a doubt the most beneficial are IGSMA Solo/Ensemble Contest and Organization Contest. The students always seem a bit more "professional" after their first time being at Organization Contest - I definitely notice a change in their demeanor and attitudes. I heartily recommend all directors to join this fine organization!"

- Carrie Provost, Orchestra Director, Franklin MS

"Participating in the IGSMA Organization Contest has brought my choral program to a level of excellence that I could not have done alone. This tradition gives my students an amazing sense of accomplishment and an annual goal that we work together to achieve."

- Elena Ryan, Choral Director, Attea MS

"I have been sending students to the Illinois Grade School Music Association Organization Band Contest for almost 20 years and have found it to be an incredible place for students to achieve both individual and ensemble performance goals. IGSMA encourages a high level of musical and personal growth for each student who participates and is an integral part of our instrumental music program."

- Kimberly Farris

Officers

Lisa Kiener-Barnett
President
lisakiener@gmail.com

George Andrikokus
Vice President
gandrikokus@d181.org

Terrence Melbourn
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
tmelbourn@igsma.org

District Chairpersons

Justin Bangert, District 1
jbangert@pikeland.org

Brian Woods & Heather Woods, District 2
bwoods@dist102.org,
hwoods@dist102.org

Rebecca Meadows Verdery, District 3
igsmadistrict3@gmail.com

Alexia Carifio & Jessica Koenig, District 4
igsmadist4@gmail.com

Jamie Kotovsky, District 5
igsmadist5@gmail.com

Jennifer Carlton & William Goetz, District 6
igsma6@gmail.com

Joseph Koppel, District 7
igsmadistrict7@gmail.com

Leslie Paul, District 8
igsmadistrict8@gmail.com

Kristina Wooden, District 9
igsmad9@gmail.com

For information pertaining to membership and participation next school year, contact:

www.igsma.com • tmelbourn@igsma.org

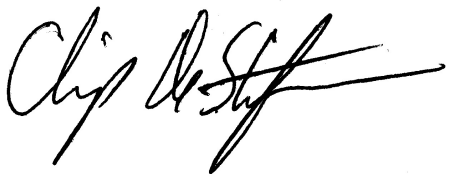
Welcome!!!

It's been a tremendous honor to have organized and hosted these workshops the last thirteen years. My approach continues to be to try to design a professional development day that I would most like to attend and I couldn't be more excited to share in this day with you. Throughout my 31 years of teaching, and really well before that as a student, I have had more than my fair share of friends and mentors who have taken real ownership of my success as a teacher and the success of our program. I hope my efforts to "pay it forward" today will allow us all to do our jobs just a little bit better tomorrow.

This workshop, quite simply, wouldn't be possible without the support of a large number of people. The **Illinois Grade School Music Association** and the **National Band Association** have provided generous financial support and publicity that has allowed us to bring in such a distinguished panel of clinicians every year. Today just wouldn't be the same without the outstanding **University of Illinois Wind Orchestra**. As you can imagine, it's quite the endeavor to bring them up here, and I am very appreciative of the efforts Barry Houser made in order to make their performance possible. And (of course!) a big big thank you to **Skokie School District 73.5** and **Charles Kyle**, superintendent, for allowing us to host the workshop here again this year.

Special thanks to my colleagues **Cesar Mendoza** & **Amy Keipert,** for the enormous amount of work they put in to making this day run smoothly. Lastly, of course, a sincere appreciation **to you!** There is a wonderful energy and excitement when members of our profession come together. It is inspiring to share space with dozens of like minded colleagues gathered for the purposes of helping their students get better. It's fun, and invigorating, and has become one of the things I look forward to most each year.

Thank you for being here. Here's to a wonderful day of professional development!



Chip De Stefano
Director of Bands, McCracken Middle School
Board of Directors - Middle School Representative, National Band Association

THE MIDWEST CLINIC
International Band & Orchestra Conference

Kleb Intermediate Symphonic Band
Christopher Gonzales, *conductor*

W375E

Wednesday, December 16, 2026, 1:30 PM

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

8:00 - 9:00 **WELCOME AND OPENING SESSION** — Band Room

Correction to Connection: Meaningful Feedback Practices for the Music Classroom
Presenter: Kelley Gossler

9:10 - 10:10 **SESSION TWO** — Gym

Pedagogy to Performance
Presenter: Christopher Gonzales
McCracken Middle School Symphonic Band

10:20 - 11:20 **SESSION THREE** — Gym

The Art IN Sight Reading
Presenter: David Morrison
McCracken Middle School Symphonic Band

11:30 - 12:30 **LUNCH WITH KELLEY GOSSLER** — Band Room

Presenter: Kelley Gossler

Sponsored by the Illinois Grade School Music Association
Geared towards students and young teachers. Open to all!

12:30 - 1:15 **PERFORMANCE** — Gym

University of Illinois Wind Orchestra
Barry Houser, *conductor*

1:25 - 2:25 **SESSION FOUR** — Band Room

Conducting Workshop/Rehearsal Techniques
Presenter: Barry Houser
University of Illinois Wind Orchestra

2:30 - 3:30 **SESSION FIVE** — Band Room

Programming with Purpose
Presenter: Christopher Gonzales

CLINICIAN BIOGRAPHIES

BARRY HOUSER



Barry L. Houser is the Director of the Marching Illini, Associate Director of Bands, Conductor of the Wind Orchestra, Director of the Fighting Illini Athletic Bands, Clinical Professor and the Chair of the Conducting Area in the School of Music at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. His responsibilities have included conducting each of the concert ensembles in the Illinois Bands program, the Athletic Bands, and the 400 member Marching Illini. He also teaches undergraduate conducting and marching band procedures along with other courses in the School of Music. Professor Houser's teaching experience encompasses both extensive public school and university experiences.

Prior to Illinois, Houser served as the Associate Director of Bands, Director of Athletic Bands and Director of Bands at Eastern Illinois University. A native of Indiana, Professor Houser served as Director of Bands and Performing Arts Director at NorthWood High School in Nappanee, Indiana, where his bands developed a reputation for great musicianship which in turn earned the program state and national recognition. Prior to his position at NorthWood, Houser served as the Assistant Director of Bands at Buchholz High School in Gainesville, Florida.

Bands under Houser's leadership have performed at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade multiple times, the NBC Today Show, the ISSMA State Marching Finals, and the Indiana Music Educators State Convention. Other performances include the Indianapolis 500 Parade, the Chicago Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Outback Bowl Parade and Halftime Show, the Hollywood Christmas Parade, the Washington DC National Memorial Parade, multiple Chicago Bears Halftime shows, exhibition performances at Music for All – Bands of America events, and performances with Maynard Ferguson, the Dallas Brass, Canadian Brass, Boston Brass, Gregg Potter, Douglas Yeo and many other talented performing artists.

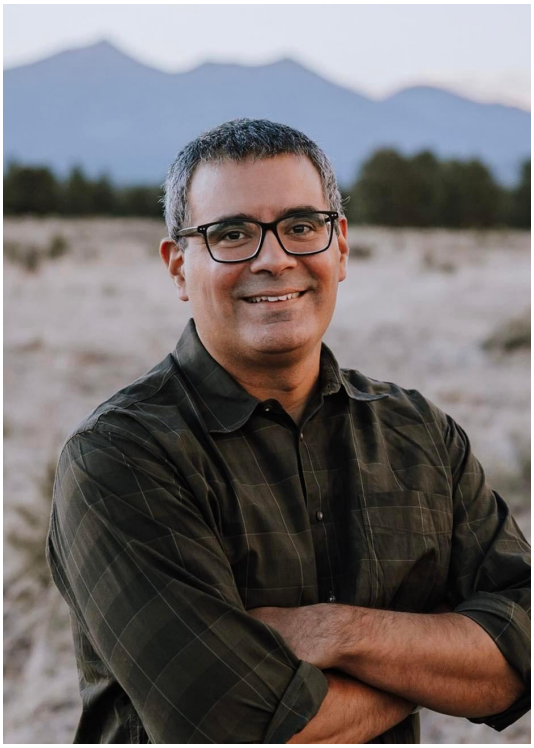
Professor Houser is active nationally as a guest conductor and clinician in both the marching and concert band mediums. He has served as guest conductor and clinician for numerous All-State, District, and other honor bands as well as events with the Music for All National Concert Band Festival. He currently serves as the Artistic Director for the BRT Thanksgiving Parade of Bands at Walt Disney World. He has served on the staff of the Macy's Great American Marching Band and the National Events Mass Band, which performs annually at the Peach Bowl in Atlanta, Georgia. He is a contributing author to the popular marching band textbook The System by Gary Smith as well as numerous submissions to the Teaching Music through Performance in Band series.

Houser has served as Governor of the North Central District of Kappa Kappa Psi and currently serves as chapter advisor for the Nu Xi Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi as well as Chapter Advisor for Phi Mu Alpha. He has served as the North Central Division Chair for the National Band Association and Chair of the Athletic Band Committee for the College Band Directors National Association, He currently serves on the national board for the College Band Directors National Association as well as the Chair of the Athletic Bands for the Big Ten Band Directors Association. Professor Houser is a member of the Music for All Educational Advisory Team providing input to Music for All leadership on philosophy, vision, planning, and guidance related to the organization's educational programming. During the summer, Professor Houser is the Director and President of the renowned Smith Walbridge Clinics, one of the largest marching band – leadership camps in the country, impacting 1000+ students each year.

Houser holds professional memberships in the College Band Directors National Association, National Band Association, NAfME, Golden Key National Honor Society, Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, Kappa Kappa Psi International Band Fraternity, Honorary member of Tau Beta Sigma, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and has been honored by the Indiana General Assembly and the US House of Representatives. He is the recipient of the Indianapolis Star Academic All Star Award, the WNDU Channel 16 Excellence in Education Award, Quinlan & Fabash Chicagoland Outstanding Music Educator, Illinois Leadership Center Jeffrey Moss Leadership Coach of the Year as well as other recognitions.

Professor Houser is a Yamaha Master Educator.

CHRISTOPHER GONZALES



Christopher Gonzales is the Director of Bands at Kleb Intermediate School in Klein ISD. Mr. Gonzales previously served as Director of Bands at Dueitt Middle School in Spring ISD (2011-2018). During his time at Dueitt Middle School, the Symphonic Band was a State Finalist in the TMEA CC Honor Band Competition in 2015 and 2017 and the Symphonic Band and Percussion ensemble performed at the 2017 Music for All National Concert and Percussion Festival in Indianapolis. The Kleb Bands have consistently achieved superior ratings at UIL competitions, earned Best in Class awards at various festivals, Grand Champion titles at the Gator Music Festival, and was a National Winner in the Foundation for Music Education's National Wind Band Honors. Continuing this tradition of excellence, the Kleb Symphonic Band was also invited to perform at the 2025 Music for All National Concert Festival in Indianapolis, was named a State Finalist in the 2026 TMEA CCC Honor Band Contest, and has been selected to perform at The Midwest Clinic in Chicago in December 2026.

In addition to his love of teaching, Mr. Gonzales is a highly sought-after clinician and guest conductor throughout Texas. He is passionate about providing equitable music education opportunities and has presented clinics on teaching in Title I schools at the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) convention, the Midwest Clinic in Chicago, and for the Texas Bandmasters Association. He also dedicates his summers in Salt Lake City with the Stone of Hope Youth Organization, mentoring at-risk children.

Mr. Gonzales is a proud alumnus of Sam Houston State University, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education. He is a member of the Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, and the Texas Music Adjudicators Association. Mr. Gonzales resides in Klein, Texas, where he cherishes quality time with his wife, Kim, and their three wonderful children — Evan (French Horn/Trumpet), Aubrie (Flute), and Elise (Trumpet). His family is his greatest source of joy and inspiration.

DAVID MORRISON



David Morrison received his formal training in music at the University of Illinois, where he earned a Music Education Bachelor of Science degree in 1973, a Master's degree in 1977, and an Administrative Certificate in 1984. 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, Morrison served as adjunct music faculty for DePaul University and VanderCook College of Music, both in Chicago, Illinois, and Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, and served as interim conductor of the Illinois Wesleyan University Wind Ensemble, in Bloomington. From 2008 to 2012, Morrison served as conductor of the University of Illinois at Chicago Concert Band. Since 2007, he has been teaching music at McCracken Middle School, in Skokie, Illinois, where he directs the McCracken Middle School Concert Band, teaches beginning band lessons, and assists with the district's other bands.

Under Morrison's direction, the Prospect High School bands achieved exceptional success. The Symphonic Band won numerous honors, including consistent first-division awards from the Illinois High School Association State Band Contest and the Chicagoland Symphonic Band Festival. The band was also regularly selected to participate in the prestigious University of Illinois Superstate Band Competition, where it won Honor Band Award on two occasions.

Also under Morrison's direction, the Prospect Marching Knights gained national recognition for outstanding performances at state and national competitions; winning numerous championships at the Chicagoland Marching Festival; receiving the Citation of Excellence from the National Band Association, being selected for the finals five times at the Bands of America Grand National Championships; winning the Grand Championship at the University of Illinois Marching Competition 24 times, including 23 years consecutively; winning the Grand Master Championship at the National Pageant of Bands in Phoenix, Arizona; and for winning the Bands of America Toledo Regional Championship. The Prospect Bands traveled extensively, including to Hawaii (King Kamehameha Parade), London (Lordmayor of Westminster's Parade), Pasadena (Tournament of Roses Parade), New York City (Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade), Arizona (Fiesta Bowl Parade), Orlando (Citrus Bowl and Magic Kingdom parades), Houston, Texas (Bank One Thanksgiving Day Parade), and Los Angeles (Hollywood Christmas Parade).

Morrison's honors include the Citation of Excellence from the National Band Association, election to the Phi Beta Mu National Band Directors Honorary Fraternity, the Outstanding Contributions to Education Award at Prospect High School on two occasions, the Outstanding Chicagoland Music Educator Award, the Shining Star Award, and a nomination for the Golden Apple Award. In 2003, Morrison was honored as the State of Illinois Teacher of the Year. Subsequently, he was inducted into the Phi Beta Mu Bandmasters 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. Morrison continues to guest conduct, clinic and adjudicate music groups throughout the United States and the world.

KELLEY GOSSLER



Kelley Gossler is currently the Director of Bands at Vernon Hills High School where she conducts the concert bands and co-directs the Symphony Orchestra and Jazz Band. Prior to Vernon Hills, she taught at Lincoln Park High School in Chicago Public Schools where she taught beginning through the most advanced concert and jazz bands and served as department chair. Ms. Gossler's ensembles have regularly performed throughout the city and region at concert and jazz festivals. Her Lincoln Park Jazz Band was the 2023 recipient of the Essentially Ellington Equity and Inclusion Initiative.

She also served as a Chicago Public School Arts Instruction Specialist for the district's Department of Arts Education where she developed and led district arts professional developments, hosted teachers in her classroom for observation and discussion of teaching practices, and facilitated Communities of Practice for educators. In 2020-2021 Ms. Gossler served as the coordinator and band director of the Roosevelt University Lakers athletic bands.

Gossler earned her master's of music in wind conducting at Northwestern University studying with Dr. Mallory Thompson and bachelor's of music education at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

SUGGESTED RESTAURANTS

WALKING DISTANCE

Subway
4025 W Oakton St
Skokie, IL

Brown's Chicken
3949 Oakton St.
Skokie, IL

SHORT DRIVE

Dengeos
3301 W. Main St.
Skokie, IL

Herm's Palace
3406 Dempster St
Skokie, IL

Poochie's
3602 Dempster St
Skokie, IL

Taco Bell
8329 Skokie Blvd
Skokie, IL

Pita Inn
4710 Dempster St
Skokie, IL

LONGER DRIVE

Chipotle
9408 Skokie Blvd.
Skokie, IL

Portillo's
9400 Skokie Blvd
Skokie, IL

Jimmy John's
9402 Skokie Blvd
Skokie, IL

Panera Bread
9611 Skokie Blvd
Skokie IL

Wendy's
9319 Skokie Blvd
Skokie, IL

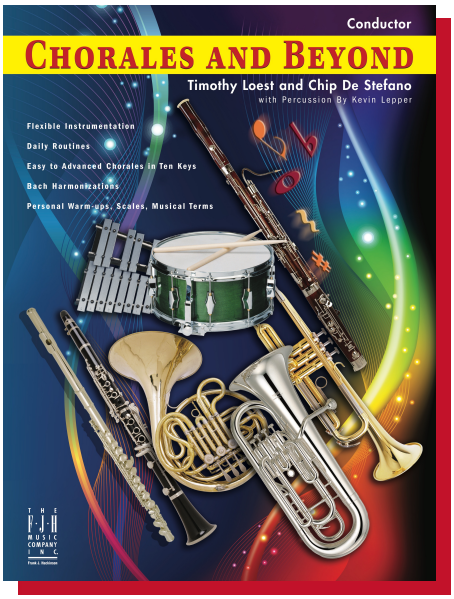
Culver's
9455 Skokie Blvd
Skokie, IL

Chorales and Beyond

Timothy Loest and Chip De Stefano

with percussion by Kevin Lepper

NEW!



FLEXIBLE INSTRUMENTATION

All chorales are written in four-part harmony with all parts appearing in each book for ultimate flexibility. Includes engaging parts for mallet, battery, and accessory percussion.

DAILY ROUTINES

Daily routines cover breathing, long tones, pitch matching, intervals, scales, arpeggios, chord progressions, and chorales.

EASY TO ADVANCED CHORALES IN TEN KEYS

Each unit includes a daily routine and three chorale cycles that can be used to provide constant variety and freshness.

BACH HARMONIZATIONS

Chorales by Lowell Mason, Thomas Tallis, Ralph Vaughan Williams and a dozen other composers, with each cycle culminating in a Bach chorale.

PERSONAL WARM-UPS, SCALES, MUSICAL TERMS

Basic and advanced warm-ups are instrument specific to meet the unique needs of each woodwind, brass, and percussion student.

About the Authors

Timothy Loest is a name in music synonymous with creativity, versatility, and accessibility. His compositions and arrangements are performed worldwide and his pedagogical methods and conducting appearances continue to impact performers and audiences at the state and national levels. With over 30 years teaching experience, Tim is familiar with the interests and pedagogical needs of today's student.

Chip De Stefano is active nationally as a clinician, guest conductor, and adjudicator. His bands at McCracken Middle School in Skokie, Illinois have performed at the Midwest Clinic and several state and regional conferences and festivals. The McCracken MS Band program was awarded the prestigious Sudler Silver Cup from the Sousa Foundation in 2007 and the National Band Association's Programs of Excellence Award in 2015.

Kevin Lepper is an internationally known percussionist/educator. His musical career has embraced a wide range of experiences, including El Paso Symphony, Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps, and commercial recordings. As a Yamaha Performing Artist, and Professor Emeritus at VanderCook College of Music, he has presented and performed at The Midwest Clinic, The Percussive Arts Society International Convention, and many state conferences.

AVAILABLE BOOKS:	
BB211CS	Conductor
BB211FL	Flute
BB211OB	Oboe
BB211BSN	Bassoon
BB211CL	B♭ Clarinet / Bass Clarinet
BB211ASX	E♭ Alto Sax / Baritone Sax
BB211TSX	B♭ Tenor Saxophone
BB211TPT	B♭ Trumpet
BB211FHN	F Horn
BB211TBN	Trombone
BB211BBC	Baritone B.C.
BB211BTC	Baritone T.C.
BB211TU	Tuba
BB211PER	Percussion

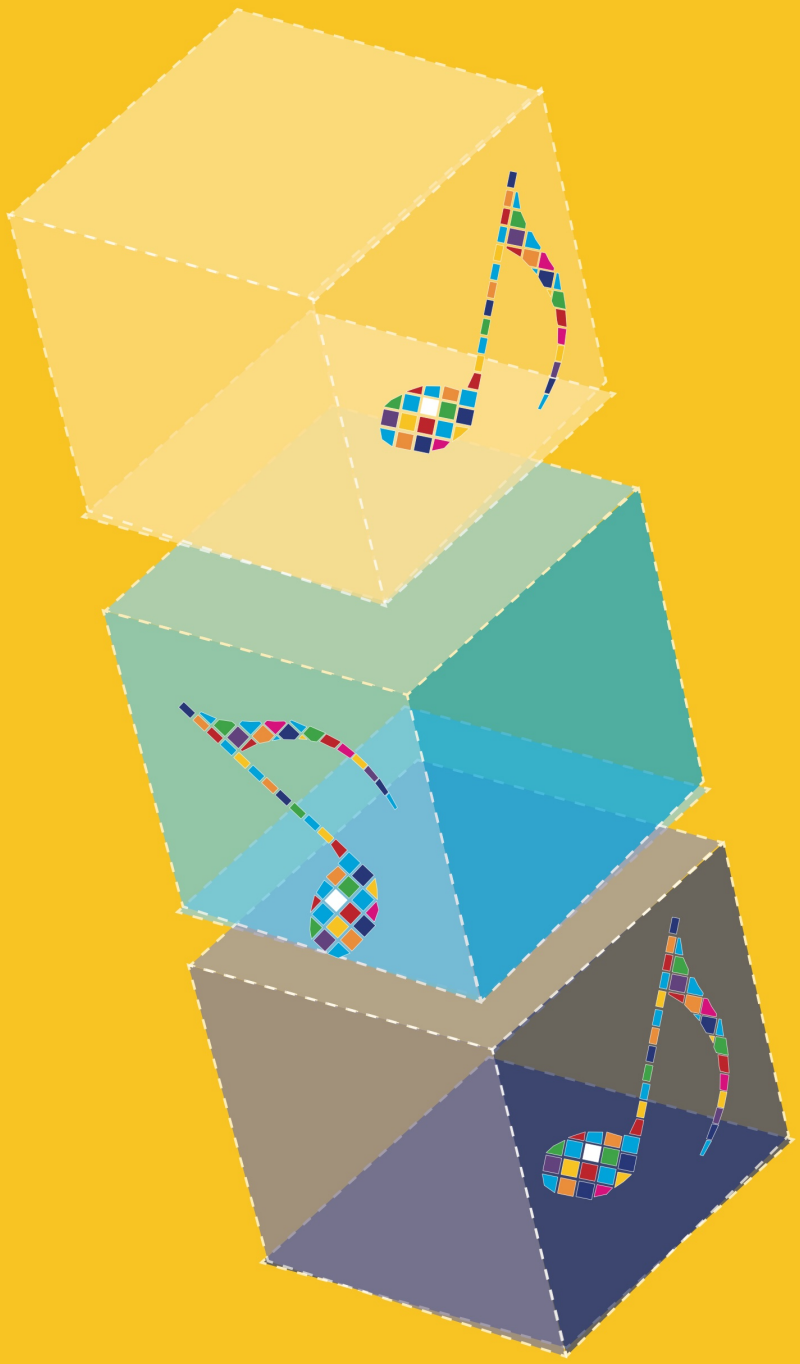
THE F·J·H MUSIC COMPANY INC.
Frank J. Hackinson

Visit us at: www.fjhmusic.com to learn more.

2525 Davie Road, Suite 360 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33317-7424
Phone: 800-262-8744 • Fax: 954-382-3073 Email: info@fjhmusic.com

FOUNDATIONS

THE FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS FOR BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM



With a Foreword by
Tim Lautzenheiser

Compiled and Edited by
Chip De Stefano
and Chris Grifa

Contributors:
Kim Bain
Chip De Stefano
Rick Ghinelli
Corey Graves
Chris Grifa
Robert Herrings
Wendy Hart Higdon
Kazuhiko Tsuchiya
Heath Wolf

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES

McCRACKEN BAND

SKOKIE, IL

IGSMA

Illinois Grade School Music Association
Northern Division
Since 1939

National Band Association

NBA

