

## *Some helpful articles to read ...*

Although I originally needed a website to share the many resources connected to my books, I also must admit that I am a total *novice* with internet technology. I'll continue to grow and improve. For now, I've just created this document in order to share some other resources. The short annotation on each title should help you know if you might be interested in the content.

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### **The 10 Most Vexing Problems for Music Directors ... with One Proven Solution!**

<https://nafme.org/blog/the-10-most-vexing-problems-for-music-directors-with-one-proven-solution/>

**Note:** This was #6 on the "Top 10 Most Read Blog Articles" of 2023 on the NAFME Website

This is a collection of widespread problems and issues that have tormented almost *all* Ensemble Directors at some point in their careers. You *might* recognize something on this list:

- Your audiences are small
- Parents leave the Concert when their own children's group is finished
- Your ensemble hasn't 'peaked' in time, and you need to cut a piece (or two!)
- The most advanced students aren't challenged, but ...
- Your younger musicians find the music difficult (and *frustrating*)
- It's so difficult to house students until it's their group's turn to perform
- The audience (and maybe even your own group) has *bad etiquette!*

This article introduces the ***Prism Concert*** as a positive addition to your Concert calendar – and one that mitigates many of these problems, creating a better experience for your students, more enjoyment for your audience, and unlimited creative opportunities for you and your colleague teachers. In considering the "how" and "why" questions about *Prism Concerts*, this installment is the "Why" portion; it might be called *Part I* of the arc.

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### **Through the Prism: A Compelling Solution To Your Vexing Problems (Part 2)**

<https://nafme.org/blog/through-the-prism-part-2/>

This becomes a set of answers to the "How" questions: how to organize, conceive, plan, produce, and *perform* an engaging *Prism Concert*. I designed this article much like a blueprint: by following a carefully organized series of decisions, tasks, and steps, a Music Teacher (or a full Department) can be immediately successful with your first-ever *Prism Concert*. You'll also find that your students and audiences alike will instantly call this "my favorite Concert of the year!"

**Note:** I would be happy to visit you (either in-person or *virtually*) to share a carefully-developed presentation about this topic. Both of my articles are combined into a single session, supported by graphics, sample documents, and more. This can fit into a fast-paced hour, or a more comfortable 2-to-3 hour period. Consider it for a Department meeting, or a PD session. Contact me at [r200lina@gmail.com](mailto:r200lina@gmail.com)

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## **When the Thrill Is Gone:**

### **A Dozen Fun, Productive, Refreshing Activities to Help Recharge Your Ensemble**

<https://nafme.org/blog/a-dozen-fun-productive-refreshing-activities-to-help-recharge-your-ensemble/>

This article shares a variety of activities I developed and adapted to boost students' enjoyment during difficult times, like the end of the year, the day(s) before a long vacation, or the morning after a Concert. These are all *educational* activities rather than time-fillers/killers. Although I'm sure you've already used some of these, I'm still confident that you'll find plenty of embers here to spark your renewed imagination!

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## **Breadcrumbs for the Band Director: *Highlighting the Path Back to Post-COVID Normalcy***

<https://nafme.org/blog/highlighting-the-path-back-to-post-covid-normalcy/>

Although this article is past its prime timing, I still do think you'll like it. Writing it was a cathartic experience for me, just as we were collectively emerging from the global COVID shutdown. Education, and certainly *music education*, was perhaps never more difficult. If nothing else, this will be a look into the rearview mirror from our restored perch. [Caveat: every medical professional I know agrees – there will *almost* surely be another pandemic. Maybe this essay will also help you prepare for the possibility of another setback in our future. Fingers are crossed, however.]

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[Coming soon – actual title TBA] *“Oh no ... There's No Curriculum in Place!”*