

About these Links ...

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 – that is, until I can learn how to add descriptions to clickable Link Buttons – I've just created this document to fill in some gaps regarding *why* I've included these links. I'll add more Links over time; these first-added links are for this reason ...

Christopher Bill – Known as “The most subscribed Brass musician on the internet.” I asked for Chris’s approval before including this description:

“I've had many wonderful Private Trombone Students in my long career, but none as creative, innovative, prolific, *fearless*, and influential as Christopher Bill. Although I taught Chris from his 7th-through-12th grade schooling, I can't take credit for his extraordinary career achievements. Enjoy him for yourself!”

YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCr-U9BPniu4AQA16baIPHYQ>

His personal website:

<https://www.classicaltrombone.com/>

Chris then wrote back (from his touring through London, then Italy, then Vienna, before heading back to the West Coast of the U.S.) and asked me to include this:

“in Chris's words, ‘*Robin complimented my tone quality when I was in a middle school honor band, and it all spiraled out of control from there. Positive reinforcement at that age can be absolutely profound and change a life's trajectory.*’

And to introduce his websites, he writes:

“*What started as a side project while studying at the Purchase Conservatory of Music rapidly became a new career path that hadn't ever existed before. A mix of performance, technical experimentation, and educational elements, be that lesson courses or simply fun music to listen to that might inspire something new!*”

Joel Smales – A friend, colleague, respected performer/educator, collegiate Percussion teacher, publisher composer of Percussion music, and long-tenured HS Band Director. Joel uses this website to share recorded demonstrations of a wide variety of Percussion performance techniques.

<https://www.youtube.com/@joeldrum9519>

Sight Reading Factory – This website has changed the educational landscape in profound ways. A cloud-based subscription service (with a generous free-trial period), SRF instantly generates

unlimited unique sight-reading practice exercises for solo musicians and for performance ensembles.

Colleen & Don Crafton are the innovative founders/owners of SRF. But I knew *Colleen* as a private Trombone student throughout her middle- and high-school years. I was continually impressed by not just her skills and innate musical talent but, just as importantly, by her communication skills, perseverance, deeply-rounded musicianship, poise, and wonderful character traits. This was a profoundly influential student who shaped my own Teaching career in many ways. I know you and your students will enjoy and grow from the *Sight-Reading Factory*.

For a succinct overview: <https://youtu.be/1IikJIRyHQ>

The full SRF Website: <https://www.sightreadingfactory.com/>

Throughout my long career as a Band Director (Instrumental Music Educator), primarily in New York, I learned early to associate myself with outstanding professional organizations. Any *organization* is, after all, only as good as its leadership, its membership, its communications, its mission, and its functions: *how well it serves its most important purposes*. Here are just a few that have stood out to me, but of course I hope you'll send me your recommendations which I'll happily post here as well. To start:

NYSBDA – The New York State Band Directors Association

<https://nysbda.org/>

NAfME – The National Association for Music Education

<https://nafme.org/>

NBA – The National Band Association

<https://nationalbandassociation.org/>

Joshua Witrado – This is an excellent collection of *Band Director Tips* and *Music Education Resources*. One day my YouTube feed sent me Joshua's video, "First Year Band Director? Your COMPLETE GUIDE to Succeed in Year One." This is a very well-organized video, with an index of time-stamped subtitles, so you can easily find information on a topic of your choice. His site is an excellent resource for Band Directors in their first year(s) of teaching, and I'll encourage you to subscribe to his channel. Return often, because it seems Mr. Witrado will be actively adding new resources regularly.

<https://www.youtube.com/@joshuawitrado>

Lindsey Williams (Band Director, Performer, and *Author*) – Lindsey’s “*Where the Valley Widens*” is as much about life and personal growth as it is about music, but music binds this wonderful book into an unforgettable experience, worthy of space on all music teachers’ shelves and in their hearts. The publisher (Compass Rose Publishing, 2025) describes it this way:

Where the Valley Widens is an inspirational testament to the reality of the classroom and the lessons that affect us for a lifetime. It is the story of a teacher's coming of age in a period of unprecedented change in our education system.

Williams pays tribute to the transformative power of music education with touching vision and powerful insight. Timely and poignant, her story reminds us of education's power to connect us despite the boundaries of space, time, and even eternal loss.

I’m just one voice recommending this heartfelt volume (along with names like Frank Battisti, *Conductor Emeritus of the New England Conservatory*, and Debra Confredo, *NAfME President*), but I encourage you to experience it for yourself.

Please *do* send me your favorite Links!