

July 29, 2018

Dear Director,

Greetings from Texas Woman's University! I hope that you had a rejuvenating summer and that your new school year is off to a great start! I am thrilled with what 2017-2018 has in store for you and for us, and I hope that you will consider nominating some of your students for the 2018 Pioneer Honor Band Festival.

This ONE-DAY event will be held on **Saturday, November 10, 2018** on the campus of Texas Woman's University in the great city of Denton, Texas. The day's events will include Honor Band rehearsals, Master Classes with our applied faculty with special emphasis on TMEA and ATSSB All- State Audition material, a special Director's Workshop, and an evening concert to feature the Pioneer Honor Band and the TWU Wind Symphony. I am excited to announce that our guest conductor this year will be Dr. Kevin Kessler, the Associate Director of Bands from South Dakota State University. Dr. Kessler has had a fantastic career as a music educator on all levels, and I know that your students will thoroughly enjoy working with him.

As in previous years, students that are interested in participating will need to be nominated by **YOU**, their director, through our online nomination system. You will have the opportunity to nominate a maximum of TEN students (all classifications), and we ask that you nominate at least ONE percussionist since many new works are often very percussion heavy. The DEADLINE to nominate students is Saturday, October 27 by midnight. All nominations received by this date will be given full consideration when selecting participants. Any nominations received after the posted deadline will be considered on a waiting list. This deadline will hopefully provide you enough time to get your nominations submitted while providing the festival office time to select the members of the honor band and distribute music and registration invoices to each participating school. Every effort will be made to have representation from each school that submits a nomination form.

To nominate your students, please visit <https://www.twu.edu/music/pioneer-honor-band-festival/>. Due to limited availability, I request that you select your students as soon as you can and verify that ability to attend **PRIOR** to nominating them. The basic registration fee, which includes a t-shirt, lunch on campus and one complimentary concert ticket, will be \$35.00 per student. 2017-2018 All-Region members will receive a discounted registration of \$25.00, 2017-2018 All-Area members may register for \$15.00, and 2017-2018 All-State members will receive **AUTOMATIC** acceptance and may participate **FREE OF CHARGE**. All payments will be due on or before Saturday, November 10 at check-in.

Again, let me say how wonderful it is to be a part of an area where music education plays such an important role in the life of so many students. Thank you for being so dedicated to your programs and the profession, and I hope that you will strongly consider nominating your deserving students for the 2018 Pioneer Honor Band Festival. If you have any questions regarding this event, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at sbiggers@twu.edu or at 940-898-2515. I look forward to seeing you and your students in November.

Sincerely,



Dr. Carter Biggers
Director of Bands
Texas Woman's University

Department of Music