



NORTHWESTERN STATE

Mrs. H.D. Dear, Sr. and Alice E. Dear

School of Creative and Performing Arts

December 5, 2019

Greetings All-Cape & Islands Band Musicians,

Wow! I am so excited to be part of the 60th Anniversary of the All-Cape & Islands Music Festival this year! When I was asked to conduct the band, I smiled from ear to ear because I know how special of a group this is and how much we musicians look forward to these types of events.

For those of you that don't know, a little over twenty years ago I sat in the same seats and in the same auditorium that you will perform in. In fact, I was part of the first class who performed in the new auditorium. For most of my high school years, I also had the fortune of participating in the All-Cape & Islands Band.

I am so grateful to be invited back to my alma mater by some of my favorite and most important people in my musical life. There is no way that I would have ever become a musician without the encouragement of my teachers from right here on Cape Cod. Mrs. Fournier-Donley was my very first school music teacher and choir director. She was also the teacher that introduced me to the saxophone. I remember the day in third grade that she pulled her saxophone out of the case and played for us. Who knew that it would still be part of my life thirty-ish years later? There are so many fantastic teachers from Cape Cod that played a major role in my musically formative years, Mr. Brown, Mr. Machon, Mrs. Cole, and Mr. Harrington. In high school, the love and support from Mr. Rosenblatt, Mr. Schafer, Mr. Jamison, and Mr. "UT" Stevens was needed and much appreciated. I hope that you acknowledge the support and love of music that your teachers share with you and show your appreciation to them as well.

We are going to make some awesome music together! I believe that I chose music that we will all enjoy. *Fanfare Hayabusa* is by one of the premiere Japanese band composers of our time, Satoshi Yagisawa. If you haven't listened to a Japanese band before, look up "All Japan Band Competition" on YouTube and be prepared to be blown away. The other pieces have a little more of a connection for me. *Cajun Folk Songs* is by Frank Ticheli who is originally from Monroe, LA, not too far from where I currently teach. Back in the 90s, I fell in love with John Zdechlik's *Chorale and Shaker Dance* as a high school band member. I thought it would be a cool experience to perform it again back at home with all of you. Last, but not least, a little march, composed by New Englander, Alonzo "Zo" Elliot. Not only do I love this march, but I think it is an awesome coincidence that it is composed by a local and the trio happens to be melody of the fight song from the university that I currently teach, Northwestern State University.

Again, I am so incredibly excited to share the stage with you! I look forward to your musical and creative input and to make music with all of the best musicians from Cape Cod & the Islands.

Sincerely,

Dan McDonald
Assistant Director of Bands

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Phones: Music (318) 357-4522 • Art (318) 357-6560 • Theatre 318.357.4483 | Fax: 318-357-5906 | 140 Central Avenue | Natchitoches, LA 71497