



To: Patrick Erwin, Jeremy Trimmer, Bobby Crosby and the Hillgrove High School Wind Symphony  
From: Christopher M. Ferrell, Supervisor of Instrumental Music  
Re: GMEA In-service Conference Performance  
Date: January 30, 2017

What a brilliant performance at the Georgia Music Educator's Association In-service Conference on January 26! The presentation at the Thursday concert was genuinely expressive and emotional with a maturity level not usually heard at this age. The programming of the performance was thoughtful and especially engaging for the entire audience.

In addition to the expressive nature of the concert, the band displayed unprecedented technical skill and interpretive understanding of some very sophisticated music. The program selection was a delightful blend of very different styles and colors making the audience wanting to hear more and more. There were many comments after the concert recognizing this nature of the program and the selections.

The students responded to the great challenge knowing that the state's most celebrated composers, conductors, teachers, and music industry officials would be the audience. This was certainly a tribute to hard work and dedication, as well as the respect and trust of the students. The band not only represented the Cobb County School District with distinction, but the entire band world with an inspiring musical display. Current and future band directors look toward the GMEA Conference for professional inspiration and performance standards with which to gauge their own work in the profession.

Preparing for a GMEA Conference performance is certainly significant experience for everyone involved, especially when you consider the number of quality band programs throughout the state. It is an acknowledgment of what we all consider most important in the music education of our young people--the highest caliber of excellence. Being able to see this first-hand was very special for me.

I cannot thank you and the students enough for allowing me to witness such a wonderful group of young musicians at the GMEA concert. It was a thrill to see such responsive young musicians and know the dedication that is required to make this a reality.

I commend the students for all of your efforts musically and thank you so much for a wonderful personal experience and providing others with some musical magic. You have my heart-felt appreciation, respect, and admiration for your dedication to such a great program.

Sincerely,

Cc: Mary Elizabeth Davis  
Melissa Morse  
Phillip Page  
Christian Suttle  
Donna Lowry