I Am Not Your Metronome

Conducting for expression

By Dr. Randy Navarre

- **You do not have to constantly and only conduct the time pattern**

- **Even with young kids**

- **For adult and community band, maybe a bit more difficult because of conditioning and habit**

- **Have to get them used to this early**

- **How I discovered this:**
  - **Conducting an honor band**
  - **March Slav, Tchaikovsky-Mark Williams arrangement –Alfred**
  - **Could not get quite the emphasis on an accented noted. Occurs twice.**
  - **All of a sudden, it just hit me to motion like swing a bat or axe.**
  - **Worked! Perfectly!**

- **Do this for an entire work?**

- **NO!!!**

- **You do this for musical reasons only**
- **Conductors job is to make the music and make it easier for the musicians to make the music**
- **When the going gets tough, you do the pattern. Even pros want this**

- **A way to get band to follow the conductor:**
- **Do not conduct with your hands-Do not conduct patters**
- **Do Not conduct at all!**

- **What do I mean?**
- **Use face gestures, but not too much. All very subtle.**
- **Tell them you are not going to conduct this next work. But you expect them to know when to start, start together, slow down, and end together**

- **See YouTube video-“Conducting Without Conducting”**

- **NEVER DO THIS WITH PROFESSIONALS!**
- **(Unless you wish to be laughed and/or booed right off the podium)**
- **This is an exercise to get kids to look at the conductor**

- **Great for getting them to look at you, and follow you. I did this in concert only because it was kids and the parents would get a kick out of it.**

- **Above this age group, only in rehearsal!!!**

- **Do not even think of doing this with a community band. The adults will eat you alive and never respect you again!**

- **Look at opening to “Romance”-Navarre-3/4, but conduct a weaving back and forth motion.**

- **For musical reasons.**

- **This piece at this point, it works.**

- **Be prepared to go back at any moment to pattern. Do not insist on anything when the band starts falling apart.**

Full Score
(Duration:)

Romance

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22
Timp.
Hp.
Vln. 1a
Vln. 1b
Vln. 2a
Vln. 2b
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
Vc. 1
Vc. 2
Cb.
Rit.
28
♩=56
♩=48
♩=38
♩=30
(short)
♩=96

- **Why do this.**
- **For musical reasons. Smoothness.**
- **Going for musicality and not thinking about the bar line**

- **Use to show beat patterns, such as 8^{th} note for rhythmic background and stability.**
- **Expression in a section**
- **Especially in works that have a lot of things going on at once.**

- **DO NOT GO OVERBOARD!!!**

- **Example: Valery Gorgeiv**
- **Youtube video: Valery Gorgeiv and Bolero.**
- **Though seems outrageous, he knows the score to every note of every instrument and knows what he wants.**
- **For me, I have no idea what the heck he wants**

- **Comments?**
- **Questions?**