

## ***Yes, They Can . . .***

A Presentation for the Fairfax County Public Schools  
Fairfax High School, Fairfax, VA  
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***Dr. Milt Allen***  
*Founder/Executive Director*  
*The Music Guerrilla*

### **Clinic Goal:**

At the conclusion of today's session, educators will have a variety of ideas to utilize in rebuilding or restructuring a program in coordination with the National Standards/FCPS Program of Studies. In addition, a re-examination of one's involvement in the profession will be encouraged in hopes of moving the individual to further personal areas of innovation or expertise, thereby enhancing their student's success in the classroom.

### **I. The Hoover Complex**

- A. "We Suck!"
- B. Plan Your Work, Work Your Plan: Where Are You Going?
  - Mission Statement
  - Purpose Statement
  - Outcome Statement
  - How will you do it?
  - Time line/success
  - Weaknesses
  - Strengths
- C. How Will You Get There? Establishing a curriculum: The Foundation!
  - 1. The National Standards should be your anchor as you build your program!

### **II. It Ain't Gonna Be Pretty At First**

- A. You must teach belief through pursuit of quality music making.
  - 1. Esteem, awareness and honesty are key.
- B. Quality, not quantity.
  - 1. This is not your college program, but you did learn what you needed to!
  - 2. Small things done well.
  - 3. Literature is crucial. (Don't try to program "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night")
  - 4. Chamber groups!
  - 5. Musical exposure is crucial: listen, listen, listen!
  - 6. Guest conductors/artists! (C'mon. It's FAIRFAX, VA!! Lot's of free resource . . .)
- C. Focus on school awareness and administrative support.
  - 1. SSB, school fight song
  - 2. Positive image
  - 3. Expect 120%
  - 4. Feedback
  - 5. Athletics, Extra-Curricular activities
- D. Promotion
  - 1. Get into the school/community/county/state!

### **III. Put It All Together**

- A. Establish mentor programs
  - 1. Student coaches
  - 2. Tri-M Chapter
  - 3. College connections
  - 4. JEN, ACDA, or how about creating your own?
- B. Community outreach programs
- C. The tone is set in the first 2-3 years. Your program's musical and educational standards are established then.
- D. Hear Voices
  - 1. Students
  - 2. Parents
- E. Healthy Habits are Crucial: You're in an Ironman Triathlon!

### **IV. Be a Hero**

- A. Music Rules!!!
- B. A challenge to being the new model: The Artist Educator/Conductor.
- C. Love, vulnerability, surrender: We are the caretakers of the soul.

### **Resources (a beginning):**

- Allen, Milton. *Music, Artistry, and Education: A Journey Towards Musical Growth and Enlightenment*. Galesville, MD: Meredith Music Publications, 2011.
- Battisti, Frank and Robert Garofalo. *Guide to Score Study*. Ft. Lauderdale, FL: Meredith Music Publications, 1990.
- Blum, David. *Casals and the Art of Interpretation*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1977
- Casey, Joseph L. *Teaching Techniques and Insights for Instrumental Music Educators*. Chicago, Ill: GIA Publications, Inc., 1991.
- Fabrizio, Al. *A Guide to the Understanding and Correction of Intonation Problems*. Ft. Lauderdale, FL: Meredith Music Publications, 1994.
- Garofalo, Robert. *Blueprint for Band*. Revised edition. Ft. Lauderdale, FL: Meredith Music Publications, 1983.
- Harris, Frederick, Jr. *Conducting with Feeling*. Galesville, MD: Meredith Music Publications, 2001.
- Jagow, Shelley. *Teaching Instrumental Music: Developing the Complete Band Program*. Galesville, MD: Meredith Music Publications, 2007
- Jordan, James. *The Musician's Soul*. Chicago, Ill: GIA Publications, Inc., 1999.
- Labuta, Joseph. *Teaching Musicianship in the High School Band*. Revised edition. Ft. Lauderdale, FL: Meredith Music Publications, 1997.

Lisk, Ed. *The Creative Director: Alternative Rehearsal Techniques*. Oswego, NY: ESL Publishing, 1990.

McBeth, W. Francis. *Effective Performance of Band Music*. San Antonio, TX: Southern Music Company, 1972.

“*Teaching Music through Performance in Band*” series by GIA Publications

Thurmond, James Morgan. *Note Grouping*. Camp Hill, PA: JMT Publications, 1982.

Williamson, John. *Rehearsing the Band*. Galesville, MD: Meredith Music Publications, 1998.

### **About the Clinician:**

Dr. Milt Allen has worked with hundreds of schools and thousands of students, directors and community members during his career. He is often credited as being one of the most creative, innovative, inspiring and non-traditional music educators today. Conductor, clinician, speaker, author and tireless advocate on behalf of music education, his passion for reaching more musicians at a grass-roots level drove him to leave a 26-year career in education, including 17 years in the public school, to step outside the traditional rehearsal room to create The Music Guerrilla, allowing him – and eventually others – to harness the power of music through whatever avenues available. In so doing, “Doc” is also able to create a means to reach out to programs in need, as well as partnering with music programs in third-world countries, most recently in Rwanda, Zambia and Haiti.

Milt brings a rare perspective to his roles as MG President and Executive Director. His cross-genre music interests effectively combine with previous teaching positions in rural/suburban, large/small and public/parochial environments to create a truly unique ability to connect to those he serves. His experiences range from teaching beginning band in a boiler room to premiering new works at the university level, to working with young African musicians learning to play an instrument. Yet always, from Glasgow, Scotland to Zambia, Africa, and at regional, state, national and international conferences, Milt’s humor, passion and experience combine to illuminate the possibilities of both music and the live art of performance.

Milt’s articles and insights have appeared in music, parenting and educational magazines as well as various newspapers, including the San Francisco Chronicle, the Los Angeles Times and the Chicago Tribune. He is also the author of *Music, Artistry, and Education: A Journey Towards Musical Growth and Enlightenment*, published by Meredith Music Publications/Hal Leonard. Dr. Allen’s online venture: “Milt’s Music Minute,” continues to gain in popularity, providing quick information and helpful hints for both music directors and parents.

Ensembles under Doc’s direction have received numerous awards at local, state and national levels including recognition by the United States Congress for Musical Excellence. He is a two-time high school Teacher of the Year, a Kansas Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalist, and is listed in various Who’s Who publications. Other honors and distinctions include 5 awards from the Ohio State University School of Music recognizing his teaching and service and selection as a Conducting Fellow for the Eastman Wind Ensemble’s 40th Anniversary. In 2008, Dr. Allen became the first civilian in the history of the United States Air Force to tour as a featured conductor (USAF Heritage of America Band) and received an Eastern Illinois University Achievement and Contribution Award.

Dr. Allen is an educational artist for Jupiter Instruments while also serving as a clinician for the Hal Leonard Corporation and Meredith Music Publications.

### **CONTACT INFO:**

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