



October 3, 2019

Eric L. Hinton • PhD, HonFRBC

Susquehanna University

Associate Professor of Music/Director of Bands

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Dear Director,

The Twenty-Eighth Annual Susquehanna University Honors Band Festival will be held on **February 21-23, 2020**. This is a unique event designed to give talented high school woodwind, brass and percussion players an opportunity to share their passion for music with similarly motivated students. As always, we will offer two honors ensembles, the Honors Wind Ensemble and the Honors Band. These ensembles come together to form the Honors Festival Band. We have invited Mr. Len Lavelle, Director of Bands at North Hills High School (Pittsburgh, PA), to be our guest conductor this year. Mr. Lavelle is an exceptional musician and educator and I am certain that your students will learn a great deal working with him.

The Susquehanna University Honors Band Festival begins on Friday afternoon, Feb. 21st, with seating auditions and master classes by the applied wind and percussion faculty of Susquehanna University. Honors Band participants will be treated to a performance by the University Symphonic Band and the University Jazz Ensemble that evening. There are rehearsals all day Saturday followed by a pizza party that night. The gala concert on Sunday features performances by the Honors Band, Honors Wind Ensemble, and Festival Band beginning at 3:00 on Sunday afternoon. The registration fee for accepted students is **\$60.00** per student, which covers all of the activities for the weekend including housing from Feb 21-23 as well as meals from Saturday breakfast through Sunday brunch. Students will be housed in University dormitories with University Symphonic Band members and other music students. Band directors are encouraged to attend all the Honors Band rehearsals as well as the gala concert on Sunday. We look forward to seeing you here!

Please inform all of your students of this unique opportunity. I've also enclosed a flier for you to post in your band room. In addition, you can learn more about the Honors Band Festival by going to our website: **<<http://www.susqu.edu/honorsbandfestival>>**. You can also find a pdf version of the application, which you may duplicate as needed. You may nominate as many students as you wish. Applications from students who play oboe, bassoon, horn, and trombone, euphonium and tuba are particularly encouraged. **The deadline for getting your nominations to us is Monday, November 4th**. Selected students and their directors will be notified by **Monday, November 18th**. Students who are accepting our invitation to participate in the Twenty-Seventh Annual Honors Band Festival are asked to do so formally via email by **Monday, December 2nd**. Your help with this would be very much appreciated. We will do our best to get music for seating auditions out on or before **Friday, December 20th**. We hope you will encourage your students to participate in the 2020 Susquehanna University Honors Band Festival. If you have any questions, e-mail us at **bands@susqu.edu** or call (570) 372-4296. Our fax number is (570) 372-2789.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Hinton", written in a cursive style.

Eric Hinton • PhD, HonFRBC

Director of Bands/Associate Professor of Music

