



THE EVOLUTION OF A SUCCESSFUL BAND DIRECTOR

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HABITS OF A SUCCESSFUL MUSICIAN
HABITS OF A SUCCESSFUL BAND DIRECTOR
THE EVOLUTION OF A SUCCESSFUL BAND DIRECTOR
HABITS OF A SUCCESSFUL MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND DIRECTOR
HABITS OF A SUCCESSFUL STRING MUSICIAN



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The Evolution of A Successful Band Director

Knowledge/Experience

- What knowledge did you need to begin this profession?
- What knowledge have you acquired since being in the profession?
- What experiences do you build into your professional life that will allow you to grow as a teacher/conductor/musician?

Physical Energy

- Do you physically conduct the music in a way that accurately reflects the musical intent?
- If you were more energetic and charismatic in your rehearsals, would students get more from the experience?
- Were you born with the “it” factor or is it something that you’ve had to develop?

Heart Energy (Passion)

- Do you have a passion for music and music making?
- Is it obvious to your students?
- Are you passionate about passing on a life-long appreciation of music and have a desire for your students to resonate with music for the rest of their lives?

Effective Communication

- Do you communicate a love for serious music/all music?
- Do you communicate that you care about your students?
- Do you communicate appropriately to your stakeholders?
- Do you have a communications person in your booster organization?

Who You Are

- Do you try to emulate a great director that you know or respect?
- Can one learn to be a great band director?
- How would you describe your personality as a director?
- What are your strengths? Weaknesses?
- What are your personal and professional goals?
- What’s REALLY important?

Urban Meyer Family Ten Action Steps

1. Family will come first
2. Urban will take care of himself
3. Urban will go on one trip a year with daughter Nicki
4. Urban will work no more than nine hours a day at the office
5. Urban will sleep with his cell phone on silent
6. Urban will communicate daily with his kids
7. Urban will trust God’s plan and not be overanxious
8. The family will keep the lake house
9. Urban will find a way each season to watch Gigi and Nicki play collegiate volleyball
10. Urban will eat three meals a day

Knowledge/Experiences

- “Leaders differ from others in their constant appetite for knowledge and experience, and as their worlds widen and become more complex, so too do their means of understanding. Don’t stifle your appetite for learning and growing.”

(Warren Bennis)

Physical Energy

- “Bernstein, the conductor, was the ultimate champion of the composer, committed to conveying every dimension of that composer, and I frequently had the sense that he was that composer for those moments, his association so strong that it blurred the line between conductor and creator.”

(Marin Alsop)

Heart Energy (Passion)

- "... that the value of a conductor's artistic achievements is to a high degree dependent upon his human qualities and capacities; the seriousness of his moral convictions, the richness of his emotional life, the breadth of his mental horizon, in short, his personality, has a decisive effect on his achievements; if his personality is unable to fulfill the spiritual demands of the works he performs, his interpretations will remain unsatisfactory although their musical execution may be exemplary."

(Bruno Walter)

Effective Communication

- The most important thing in communication is to hear what isn't being said.

(Peter Drucker)

Filtered Through Who You Are

- "Exploration of the full range of our own potentialities is not something that we can safely leave to the chances of life. It is something to be pursued systematically, or at least avidly, to the end of our days."

(John Gardner)

Effectiveness Scale:

- 135 – 160: You are doing many positive things within the scope of your teaching.
98 – 134: You need to zero in on your areas of weakness and strive to improve them.
000 – 97: A major paradigm shift is needed for you to become effective.

The Effectiveness Checklist

Organizational Skills

Score 1 - 5

1. Do you submit paperwork / meet deadlines as requested? _____
2. Are you punctual to class and meetings? _____
3. Do you effectively communicate with parents? _____
4. Do you have an effective handbook? _____
5. Do you use the internet or newsletter as a means of communication? _____
6. Do you write your rehearsal plans on the board? _____
7. Do your chaperones feel informed? _____

Classroom Management

1. Are you consistent in implementing policies and procedures? _____
2. Are you consistent in implementing consequences for student actions? _____
3. Do you have an effective discipline plan? _____
4. Do you pride yourself in having an orderly environment? _____
5. Do you use probing questions to enhance student involvement? _____

Professionalism

1. Do you work well with colleagues? _____
2. Do you set high expectations for your students? _____
3. Do you dress professionally? _____
4. Are you a positive role model for students? _____
5. Are you “respected?” _____
6. Are you passionate about making music? _____
7. Are you encouraging to students? _____
8. Do you care about making them better people? _____
9. Are you considered an enthusiastic teacher? _____

Musically Speaking

1. Do you communicate well from the podium ?
(cues, head out of score, eye contact) _____
2. When you stop, do you clearly communicate your intent? _____
3. Do you make time for score study and listening to recordings? _____
4. Are you charismatic on the podium? _____
5. Are you able to reflect the composer’s intent through conducting gestures? _____
6. Are you willing to say, “that was my fault” on the podium? _____
7. Are you well prepared for rehearsals? _____
8. Do you have a soft side, while still appearing confident? _____
9. Are you concise in your trouble-shooting instructions? _____
10. Do you use rehearsal strategies for teaching musical concepts? _____
11. Do you use time wisely? _____

10 Professional Action Steps

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Notes:

10 Personal Action Steps

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

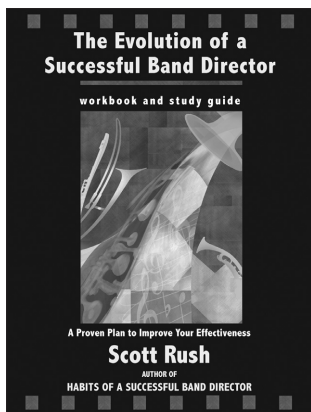
7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Notes:



The Evolution of a Successful Band Director Workbook and Study Guide

A Proven Plan to Improve Your Effectiveness

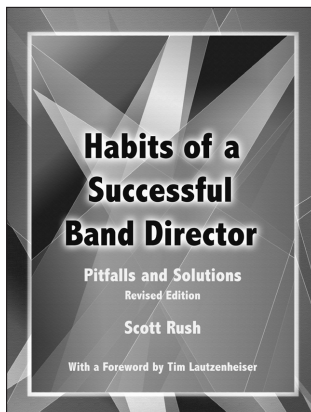
Scott Rush

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Habits of a Successful Band Director Pitfalls and Solutions

Scott Rush

Foreword by Tim Lautzenheiser

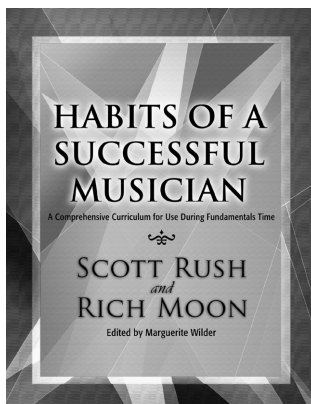
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