



HOBART, INDIANA
INSTRUMENTAL
MUSIC SET UP

MID-WEST BAND CLINIC
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In the musical education field the success of the Hobart High School Concert Band is very well known. Consequently, many questions have been asked about the nature of the program that has produced such a group. It is hoped that the answers to many of these questions will be found in this article.

In any survey of the Hobart, Indiana, instrumental music department the first thing to be acknowledged is that the success attained by the Hobart High School Concert Band was accomplished only with the whole-hearted support of the administration of the Hobart City Schools and the citizens of Hobart. From the beginning up through the present time the citizens and school administration have always been proud and vitally interested in maintaining the high standard of this group.

In connection with the budget for the instrumental music department, the primary objective has been to keep the department as self-supporting as possible. The main expenditure that the school board makes outside of the instructor's salary and the up-keep of the buildings is \$250.00 a year for the purchase of music. Now and then a special grant is made to take care of special disbursements such as the \$2,000.00 granted last year for the complete repair of all large brass instruments. The main sources of income are the Band Mothers' Association which earns about \$2,600.00 a year and the band fund which has an income from rentals and concerts of \$500.00 to \$700.00 for the year. Some of the items of expense for the department are transportation, contest fees, letter awards, repair of instruments, new instruments, uniform replacements, and sheet music.

The instrumental music department of Hobart High School includes beginning classes, a junior band, senior band, marching band, and a dance band.

First year instrumental music students start their work in homogenous classes of ten to twelve pupils. All students wishing to study a brass instrument begin in a cornet class, and future saxophone, bassoon, and oboe players start on the clarinet. The exceptions to this rule are flute and percussion players who are started directly on those instruments. At the present time all pupils begin their instrumental music study in the seventh grade. It has been found, after several years of starting classes at different grade levels, that better results can be obtained by beginning these first year groups at the junior high school level. The ability or speed of learning is much better, the percentage of students dropping after a short time is less, and there are no physical handicaps to overcome, such as smallness of fingers and short arm length. Also because our junior high school is departmentalized we are able to get these students one hour each school day which contributes to more rapid progress.

These beginning classes are organized each fall with the students being selected as follows: Each spring a music aptitude test is given to all the sixth grade pupils. About one hundred sixth graders are sent invitations to join the "band" because of the results of this test and the recommendations of the sixth grade teachers as to general intelligence and dependability. Sixty to Seventy of these students eventually begin the study of a musical instrument. The school provides the instruments for these prospective bandmen during the first year at a rental of two dollars and fifty cents a semester or five dollars for the year. The second

year these pupils either buy their own instruments such as clarinets, cornets, alto saxophones, and possibly flutes, or they transfer to a larger school-owned instrument and continue to rent it.

Most of the beginners who are going to be transferred to other instruments of the woodwind or brass family do so at the start of the second semester. At the same time the junior band is also organized. This group includes all the instrumental players of the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades and numbers between 65 and 70 students.

The junior band has a balanced instrumentation which is patterned after the senior band. Last year's junior band included four flutes, two oboes, three bassoons, twenty-four Bb clarinets, two alto clarinets, two bass clarinets, four alto saxophones, one tenor saxophone, one baritone saxophone, twelve cornets, six French horns, two baritones, four trombones, three basses, and four percussion. The group rehearses an hour a day on school time and necessary sectional rehearsals are held before and after school.

The junior group participates in the various contests of the Northern Indiana School Band, Orchestra, and Vocal Association and takes part in the annual spring concert with the high school band and chorus. Last year the scope of the junior band's activities was enlarged to include one summer concert and a parade on the Fourth of July. This type of activity will be further developed so that each year the group will give four or five complete programs of its own.

To gain admission to the high school concert band the instrumentalist must pass a fairly rigid musical examination. This examination is given in the presence of the officers of the band who vote on whether the candidate is prepared to take a useful place in the organization. Needless to say these officers screen the quality of the players coming into the senior band very carefully so that the caliber of each player does not deteriorate. The try-out includes the memorization of all the major scales through six flats and sharps, the chromatic scale, the preparation of an assigned selection, and a sight-reading composition.

The scales are asked for by concert pitch so that the student must know his transpositions very well. A group of fifteen to twenty basic rhythms will soon be added to this examination. Those students approved by the officers immediately take their place in the band.

The high school band consists of seventy to seventy-five members including five flutes, two oboes, two bassoons, twenty Bb clarinets, two alto clarinets, two bass clarinets, three alto saxophones, two tenor saxophones, one baritone saxophone, ten cornets, five French horns, five trombones, five baritones, four basses, and four percussion.

The concert organization rehearses an hour a day on school time with extra rehearsals and sectionals called as needed before and after school. The schedule listed below is the one being followed this year in our instrumental music department.

The activities of the concert band are many and varied. In a resume of what is scheduled for the group so far this year we find five football games, nine concerts, twelve concerts on tour, ten pep meetings, twenty ensemble engagements, three parades, one marching contest, and three concert contests.

The climax of the year's work is the annual tour which the band has made nearly every year since 1940. In 1945 the band toured Indiana while in 1947 the band journeyed to the East, playing at both the Eastman School of Music in Rochester and Julliard School of Music at New York City. In 1948 the band played a second tour of Indiana and last spring traveled through Wisconsin and Michigan. On this last tour the band covered over 1200 miles and played for more than 10,000 people. The band's programs were well received everywhere including such towns as Waukesha, Wisconsin; Appleton, Wisconsin; Marquette, Michigan; Traverse City, Michigan; and Grand Rapids, Michigan.

It should be mentioned that neither the junior or senior group lacks social activities throughout the year. In the fall the Band Mothers Association has a

PERIODS	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7:15-8:15	3rd Clar. 3rd. Cor.	2nd Clar. 2nd Cor..	3rd. Clar. 3rd Clar.	2nd Clar. 1st Clar. 2nd Cor.	3rd Clar. 3rd Cor.
Period I 8:20-9:15	Beginning Cornet Class	Same	Same	Same	Same
Period II 9:20-10:15	Beginning Clarinet Class	Same	Same	Same	Same
Period III 10:20-11:15	1st. Semester Flute & Percussion 2nd. Semester Junior Band	Same	Same	Same	Same
Room Period 11:20-12:15	Lunch	Oboes	Teachers Meeting	Officers Meeting	Lunch
Period IV 12:20-1:25	Concert Band	Same	Same	Same	Same
Period V 1:30-2:25	Beginning Clarinet Class	Same	Same	Same	Same
Period VI	Beginning Cornet Class	Same	Same	Same	Same
3:30-4:30	Clarinet Section	Full Band till 5:00	Drums	Cornet Section	Alto and Bass Clarinet
7:00-8:00	Full Brass Section	Flutes	Trombone	Full Woodwind Section	
8:00-9:00	Bass	Saxophones	Baritones	French Horn Section	

potluck supper for all band students and their families. One of the big events of the year is the annual Christmas party where all the band members past and present gather to talk over experiences and have a really enjoyable time together. In May or early June the Band Mothers treat the band to a picnic which includes the annual game between the woodwinds and brass.

Technical progress after the first year is mainly secured through private lessons. This instruction is provided by woodwind and brass teachers who charge one dollar and fifty cents for each lesson. These men come to Hobart one or two days a week and give a majority of the lessons on school time. Each year there are over ninety percent of the bandmen taking private instruction. A few of the more advanced students travel into Chicago to study with members of the Chicago Symphony.

Small ensembles are provided for the students and are enjoyed by a great many of the concert and junior band students. Some of the standard ensembles that are maintained are the woodwind quintet, the brass sextet, cornet trio, and brass, Bb clarinet, mixed clarinet, French horn, saxophone, and trombone quartets.

A recent development in Hobart has been the marching band. This group was organized five years ago by Frederick Ebbs, now director of the Baldwin-Wallace College Band at Berea, Ohio, and has enjoyed much success. It has played at several Big-Ten games, such as, Indiana-Northwestern on October 21, 1944; Indiana-Nebraska, October 13, 1945; Indiana-Michigan U., September 27, 1946; and Indiana-Illinois, October 12, 1946. On October 15th of this year the marching band won the sweepstakes trophy in the first marching contest ever entered by Hobart. The marching band is composed of a drum-major and forty-eight to sixty-three members.

Another of the more recent developments is the creation of a high school dance band. This group varies from seven to twelve and are bona-fide members of the concert band who are interested in this type of music. Its main activity consists of playing for the various school dances, thus providing more spark to the dances and incidentally giving its members some valuable experience for the future. The dance band is not permitted to play or practice for two weeks before a concert,

or for four weeks before a tour or contest. In this way the dance band does not hinder or destroy the blend of tone needed for the important concerts and contests.

Both the junior and senior band have a corps of officers who help a great deal in the administration of each group. The officers include a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, student conductor, efficiency manager, head librarian and assistants, equipment manager and assistants, drum major, sponsor, and business manager. The president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and efficiency manager are elected by the band students while the remainder are appointed by the director. The drum major and student conductor have charge of the band in the director's absence, the efficiency managers handle all moving equipment, and the librarians take care of the music. The sponsor is not a playing member of the band but is an interested student who takes care of attendance and other secretarial duties. A similar position is held by the business manager who handles much of the business details for concerts, contests, and trips. The leaders of each section assist in the drilling of that section when the director is not present.

The complete staff of officers meets once each week to hear examinations of prospective band members, call students who need discipline "on the carpet", and to discuss current problems of the band together with various remedies. Some of the rules which this group has formulated include:

- (1) Any band member may participate in one major sport each year.
- (2) No member of the band is permitted to smoke.
- (3) Requirements for a junior band letter are
 - (a) Four semesters of service or two years as a member.
 - (b) A "B" average in band and no failures in school subjects.
- (4) Requirements for a senior band letter are
 - (a) A minimum of two years in concert and marching band.
 - (b) A "B" average in band and a "C" average in school subjects.
 - (c) A minimum of two years of private lessons.

- (d) A minimum of two years participation in solo and/or ensemble contest with a first in at least one contest.

An outstanding group that has aided immensely in maintaining Hobart's high standards is the Hobart Band Mothers' Association. Its membership includes mothers of both the junior and senior bands. This group was organized to aid in financing the band's trip to the National Contest at Denver in 1929 and has rendered invaluable assistance ever since that time. The objectives of the Band Mothers Association are to "promote interest in band music, to provide support and backing for the Hobart Junior and Senior High School Concert Bands, and to foster their objectives and assist in their projects". The Band Mothers Association has two main money-making projects each year: The sponsorship drive and a cakewalk. The sponsorship drive consists of a house to house canvas much the same as a community chest drive, and has obtained over two thousand dollars each year. The cakewalk is held each spring on the main street of the town. Two circles, each with about thirty-six numbers are painted on the street while the band is set-up between them. Over a hundred cakes are donated for the occasion. The patrons buy tickets for the privilege of marching around the circles, while the band plays part of a march. Each time the band stops a number is drawn from a box and the person on the winning number receives a cake. The proceeds from this single event usually amounts to over three hundred dollars.

One thing which should be emphasized is that even though this "Hobart System" has produced very fine musical groups, improvements are constantly being made to any part of the organizational set-up which requires attention. One of our main projects during this year will be the organization of an adult municipal band of graduates of the Hobart High School Concert Band.