



THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS BAND

“ The Oldest High School Band in America ”

Memphis, Tennessee

Founded in 1872

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Phi Beta Mu:

It is with great pleasure that I have been asked to compose a letter of recommendation for Tim Simpson for admittance into the Phi Beta Mu fraternity. I was first introduced to Tim at the University of Memphis while we both were receiving our undergraduate degrees in the late 1990s. We both were receiving music education degrees and he far outshined my own love for the work. He was always punctual, professional and a good person to talk to regarding moral support and life management. He was a star in the Marching Band on Sousaphone and became a leader of the section. His approachable and friendly demeanor were always one of his strongest attributes.

After graduation, Tim got the job at Briarcrest High School and I began my career at Christian Brothers High School. We grew close during this time as we both had similar programs. We were young band directors and often would pick each other's brains on way to improve our bands. We would bring our band officers together at football games to enjoy some Christian Band comradery as we continued to share notes on what works best. I will always remember how crisp and clean his band sounded in the stands at Briarcrest. I wanted the CBHS Band to sound just as good and our friendly rivalry became a highlight of the year when our annual football games occurred. At Briarcrest he also hosted many WTSBOA Events at the school including All West Orchestra Tryouts.

Tim moved to First Assembly Christian School for several years after Briarcrest. FACS hosted the Christian Brothers graduations on their campus for many years, and Tim was always gracious in allowing the Christian Brothers Band to use their percussion equipment for the ceremony. This was quite helpful and something that he did above and beyond his responsibilities at the school.

He has always been an active member of WTSBOA, and upon receiving the job at Arlington High School he took over one of the largest programs in the city. Even after all

his new responsibilities he continued to host All West Band tryouts at Arlington, and the band consistently did well at the WTSBOA Concert Festival. He also volunteers his time at the All West Clinic helping out where he can. Under his direction, the Arlington Band continues to grow and prosper.

The one thing about Tim that can not be understated is that he is always there when you need him. I have no doubt that if I called Tim up with a problem he would be there in a heartbeat. He is always one to lend a helping hand when needed and his dedication to his profession and his family are commendable. He raises the ethical bar in a room when he enters, and stands as a monument to what it takes to be a great band director, husband and father.

Sincerely,

Patrick Bolton
Christian Brothers High School
“The Oldest High School Band in America”
Band Director
www.cbhs.org/band

May 09, 2025

Members of The Phi Beta Mu, Eta Chapter Selection Committee,

It is my professional and personal honor to sponsor and recommend Tim Simpson for membership in Phi Beta Mu.

I have known Tim for more than twenty-five years and have the highest respect for his professional abilities as a music educator, as well as his honesty and integrity as a person.

Tim teaches the student, not just the ensemble. His program facilitates opportunities for each student, and all ensembles, to achieve to their highest potential. Therefore, his band students, and thus the ensembles, are always extremely well prepared for every music education event including, marching, concert and individual student assessments. Tim's integrity, work ethic and willingness to go 'above and beyond' for not only his Arlington HS Students, but also for his community and WTSBOA sets the standard for us all. He freely volunteers his time and has hosted/trained numerous University of Memphis Residency Candidates. Tim is a man of his word. He can always be trusted to follow through with any responsibility or job, large or small entrusted to his care. Over the years his behind the scenes work for WTSBOA, including hosting All-West TN Band Auditions and bringing truckloads of instruments downtown to the All-West Band Conventions, have been vital to the success our West TN Band Students.

Tim's students annually earn numerous positions in the All-West TN and TnMEA All-State Bands. Over the years, his ensembles have also consistently achieved Superior Ratings at WTSBOA Concert Marching and Concert Festivals. Tim's Arlington HS Band Students have also earned multiple ASBDA Awards of Distinction and the TBA Sweepstakes Awards. Additionally, his marching bands have won numerous competitions including The Bandmasters Championship and have placed in the Semi-Finals of the BOA Nationals.

In closing, Tim Simpson is certainly representative of the type of music educator and outstanding personal character that Phi Beta Mu would desire for its membership. It is my honor to send you my highest recommendations for him.

Sincerely,

David E. Chipman

Adjunct Faculty, Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music, Univ. of Memphis
Director of Bands (retired), Germantown HS (TN)
Past President, WTSBOA
Past State Band Chair, TnMEA



May 8, 2025

Phi Beta Mu, Eta Chapter
Selection Committee

To all it may concern,

It is my honor and pleasure to recommend Mr. Tim Simpson for inclusion into the Eta Chapter of Phi Beta Mu.

I have known Mr. Simpson for many years, and both his body of work and personal integrity are of the very highest quality, far and exceedingly even the most successful music educators of my professional alliance. Tim has positioned the Arlington High School Band as a model of consistency and honor for all to emulate. Each of his ensembles not only experience the highest level of challenging literature with an unprecedented success rate, they also strongly populate the All West Tennessee groups as well as the Tennessee All State ensembles. His marching band is nationally recognized through his highly successful involvements in Bands of America and his concert ensembles are regularly the recipients of the Tennessee Bandmasters Association Sweepstakes Award and the American School Band Directors Association's Award of Distinction.

Tim Simpson is what every Band Director should aspire to model. Mr. Simpson's personal integrity and mettle are inspirational at every glance. His devotion to family is spellbinding, especially considering his dedication to his "second family," his beloved students. Tim is the kindest and most caring individual on this earth, a trait that not only the adults he encounters recognize, but also his many students experience as a role model on a daily basis. Tim is the definition of where balance, honesty and trustworthiness reside.

Mr. Simpson is a highly active in every vision and mission of WTSBOA as he has been quick to host any event at Arlington High School throughout the years. He has consistently provided rehearsal and stage equipment for the All West Convention, loading his equipment in trailers and personally driving them to Downtown Memphis for our gala, twelve-ensemble weekend. WTSBOA recognizes Mr. Simpson as the "go to" option for most any resolve to conflicts in the myriads of endeavors provided by WTSBOA.

I stand staunchly in support of Mr. Tim Simpson joining the ranks of all those amazing Band Directors in the Tennessee Chapter of Phi Beta Mu.

Professionally,

Barry Trobaugh

Memphis Wind Symphony, Music Director

Munford High School, Ret

Tennessee Bandmasters Association, Past President

West Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association, Past President