



TOUCHPOINT

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Interview with Frank Troyka!

The Conn-Selmer Division of Education is fortunate to have a world-class team of educational clinicians and Frank Troyka is a key member of that all-star group. Frank serves as a clinician for the Conn-Selmer Institute each summer as well as traveling the world presenting clinics and workshops for teachers and students. Frank had an amazing career as a junior high and high school educator for over 30 years in Texas. He is the retired Director of Bands and Coordinator of Fine Arts at Berkner High School in Richardson, Texas. Ensembles under his direction have been selected to perform at the Music For All National Festival; the Percussive Arts Society International Convention; and at the Midwest Clinic on two occasions. Frank is currently on the music education faculty at Southern Methodist University. Frank dedicates a great deal of his time mentoring college students and young teachers in our profession. Frank coordinates the Generation Next Track for the Midwest Clinic as well as the college track at The Conn-Selmer Institute.



Frank is a mentor to many in music education. If you ever have the opportunity to attend a clinic or workshop he is presenting or just to sit down and talk with him over coffee, you will see the wealth of knowledge he has to offer.

In your position as a Conn-Selmer clinician, I know you are spending a great deal of time on-the-road working with all levels of music educators. What do you bring to the students and music educators...and how can our readers benefit from your experiences?

Having taught for well over 30 years, most of the challenges faced by current teachers are things I've encountered and had to work through myself. All of us need mentors, and that may be what I like best about how I can fulfill the Conn-Selmer educational mission. By serving as an ongoing resource—for weeks, months, or even years—I can be a shoulder to lean on. And if I can't provide precisely what is needed, chances are I know someone who can.

You are in charge of the college-track at Conn-Selmer Institute, and we are aware you communicate with these students throughout the year. No doubt you can recognize the "certain to be a success" teachers of the future; what are those key character attributes that make-up the foundation of a first-class band/orchestra director?

The best teachers are the ones who are lifelong learners. In my experience, the most significant component to a successful career in this profession is a hunger for information. It's also critical to build strong positive relationships with students, parents, administrators, colleagues—basically all the stakeholders in an educational setting. These may be the things I love most about the CSI experience. The information is limitless and it's where lifelong relationships are built.

What do you do to help the college students understand the critical value of these qualities?

I do my best to offer "case studies;" that is, real life situations they are likely to encounter and the various ways to respond successfully. I also share the realities of what administrators recognize in their best teachers and we focus on how to develop those attributes. But we also work on how they present themselves by way of resumes, cover letters, and interview skills, all of which are of immediate and critical value in getting that first job!

Having watched Frank in action, he is one of those remarkable people who can connect with all age groups. If you are interested in having Frank or any of our staff of clinicians work with your group, click the button below. It would be our privilege to support you and your program!

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December TouchPoint:

Watch for December's issue of TOUCHPOINT where will feature the great things happening with **The American Youth Ensemble Organization**.

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New Content on Education Website:

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