



# TOUCHPOINT

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## "Keep the Flame Lit," Dr. Mathew Arau

New Year's Eve is a chance to reflect where we have been but also an opportunity to dream of where we would like to go. It is an opportunity for a fresh start, a new beginning, and an opportunity to once again ignite the flame for music. As music teachers we devote our lives to share our love for and knowledge of music with our students. We are so focused on those that we teach, that we often tend to put ourselves last and neglect to take the time to focus on keeping our own tank fueled and our own flame lit.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

*The Conn-Selmer Division of Education has an expert team of master educators and word-class clinicians ready to support you and your community. [Click here](#) to view their profiles.*



## People Skills From the Podium

Dr. Matthew Arau

Dr. Matthew Arau, Conn-Selmer Institute Faculty and Educational Clinician, discusses how believing in your students directly impacts the quality of your music ensemble.

### Community Spotlight:

Jason Steele, White Oak ISD, TX

"When I graduated from High School my parents bought me a horn. I was fortunate enough to attend a school that supplied all the horns to each student. My senior year I sat my Bach Mercedes down and my parents took me to Tatum Music Company to pick out my own horn. Doice Grant at Tatum Music had 3 horns setting out



for me to choose from. I played all three and settled on the horn I have today. That was in 1994. My Bach Stradivarius faithfully served me for 4 years of college, and 18 years of teaching after that. I was fortunate enough to have my school all paid for through scholarships, all of which I auditioned for with that horn.

As a Band Director one of your proudest moments is if you ever get to teach your own child. When my son entered 6th grade at the school I teach in now (which also provides all the horns to students) it was an extreme pleasure to get to hand

that same horn to him. He has performed well with it and is now in 9th grade, and plays it better than I did at that age. My Bach Stradivarius Model 37 isn't just a horn or a piece of equipment, it is an heirloom. The memories I have attached to that horn are immeasurable and incredible. The memories my son will make with it will be the same, if not better.

I was fortunate enough to get to meet the man that spun the bell on my horn and I got to tell him a brief part of my story. He was eager to help me and show me what he does, and after that was kind enough to tell me "you made my day." It was he and the fine people at Conn-Selmer that made my day greater than I could have imagined. This company is not making horns. They are making heirlooms, memories, and emotions that are not available from any store or shelf. Words cannot describe how emotional an experience my day with Conn-Selmer was, but you can rest assured it effected me in a profound way that I will be eager to share with others."

*Do you have a personal story you would like to share? [Click here](#) to send us a note about how we impacted your life and be featured in a future issue of Touchpoint!*

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