### **Abstract for ALCE Paper Presentation**

Title: What Matters Most in the Teaching of Music

Description: There is much duality in the teaching and conducting of music: the technical and the expressive.; the intrinsic and the extrinsic; the left brain and the right brain. What are the ultimate goals in the classroom, the rehearsal room, and the concert hall? Participants in this session will discover what should be the priorities as we engage our students in the subject and performance of music.

Why this topic is important: There are few subject areas that allow for such a strong connection between the cognitive, expressive and emotional dimensions in the development of a child. We need to examine the materials/repertoire, classroom and rehearsal procedures, and our very own basic set of beliefs that guide every decision we make as to whether the students, as a result of what they learn and experience, will stay connected with music for the rest of their lives. Are the students having a soulful experience with music?

Method of delivery: This presentation will be a combination of lecture and discussion. A handout will be provided.

Presenter: Dr. Richard R. Fischer, Distinguished professor of Music and the Fred and Jane Wittlinger Endowed Chair for Music Performance, has been on the faculty of Concordia University Chicago for 40 years. He conducts the Wind Symphony and University Band and teaches basic and advanced conducting courses. He also supervises student teachers. The Wind Symphony has performed in 43 states and Canada, Eastern Europe and three times toured China. They have recorded 13 CDS of sacred wind music. Dr. Fischer received a Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music degree from DePaul University and received a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from Michigan State University. Fischer is in great demand as a guest conductor, clinician, presenter and adjudicator.

# WHAT MATTERS MOST IN THE TEACHING OF MUSIC 2013 Australian Conference on Lutheran Education Brisbane, Australia Dr. Richard R. Fischer Distinguished Professor of Music Fred and Jane Wittlinger Endowed Chair for Music Performance Concordia University Chicago 7400 Augusta Street River Forest, IL 60305 U.S.A.

"We cannot IMPART what we do not know, SHOW what we do not feel, or REPRESENT what we do not believe"

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"Technique is only a means to an end – which is to make music"

"Accuracy, velocity, even beautiful sounds alone creates only a shallow 'perfection.' It is the interpretation which breathes soul into a performance and gives it meaning. It is what affects the listener, providing inspiration and uplift, diversion and entertainment, according to the spirit and character of the music."

"The capacity to inspire the student and stimulate his/her imagination so that 'music making' becomes the only meaningful goal, NOT merely playing the notes, no matter how proficiently."

"Good music has its roots in the timeless soul, where there are no formulas, prescriptions, devices, techniques, systems, or theories. Good music originates in the depths of the soul, and good art reveals the distillation of life – the distillation of memories. Good art never focused on the vessel, but on its contents. Good music is eloquent, and speaks to the perceiver.(Ernst Toch)

"In order to create a society of music lovers, music education programs need to help young students develop an understanding and appreciation of music. Band program experiences often consist of too much activity and not enough art. This compels me to work hard and strive to become a better person, musician, conductor, and teacher." (Frank Battisti)

## WHAT DO THE STUDENTS SEE WHEN YOU ARE IN FRONT OF THEM?

# BUILD A SOLID FOUNDATION THAT GUIDES EVERY DECISION YOU MAKE (WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BE A MUSIC TEACHER?)

# TEACHING TO INSPIRE STUDENTS TO HAVE A DEEPER CONNECTION WITH MUSIC FOR LIFE

REPERTOIRE/MATERIALS SELECTION (THE THREE "E" WORDS)

GAINING A CLEAR CONCEPT OF THE MUSIC AND HAVING A STRONG CONVICTION ABOUT ITS INTERPRETATION THROUGH SCORE STUDY

STIMULATING CONCERTS THAT DRAW THE AUDIENCE TO THE SOUND OF THE ENSEMBLE AND INTO THE SOUL OF THE MUSIC

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND THE GROWTH TRIANGLE

WHAT IS YOUR ARTISTIC DIET? WHAT ARE YOUR SOURCES FOR INSPIRATION?

REHEARSALS & CLASSROOMS WHERE TECHNIQUE AND EXPRESSION GROW TOGETHER (CONVERTING TERMS & SYMBOLS INTO ACTION)

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO BECOME THE BEST "MUSICIANS" THEY CAN BE WITH
THE TALENT THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN

CHARACTERISTIC TONE QUALITY IS A VERY IMPORTANT ASPECT OF PERFORMANCE

INSTRINSIC VS EXTRINSIC EXPERIENCES (MUISC FROM THE INSIDE OUT)

CONCERTS: MUSICAL JOURNEYS AND PRESENTING MUSICAL "GIFTS"

HOW WOULD YOU DEFEND YOUR MUSIC PROGRAM?
(MUSIC IS A GENUINE SUBJECT AND STANDS ALONE WORTHY OF STUDY)

**QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION** 

# Dr. Richard Fischer Distinguished Professor of Music The Fred and Jane Willinger Ednowed Chair for Music Performance Concordia University Chicago 7400 Augusta Street River Forest, Illinois 60305 richard.fischer@cuchicago.edu

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# **PERIODICALS**

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