

# 'Tis the Season . . .



With the Holiday season approaching, I wish there was a way to communicate the need we as Music Educators have to be assured that all of our performers are going to be present for every scheduled public performance. We rehearse during the school day and someone needs to take a test. We rehearse after school and someone's coach tells them that if they miss this (very important!) practice, they will be benched from the team.

The calendar moves to the time where we are taking our ensembles out into the public and kids come and tell us they have other obligations. (I love the ones where they say it's their birthday and they have to have dinner with their families, or their parents booked a vacation the week of the Winter or Spring Concert, instead of participating in a performance.)

Wouldn't it be lovely if we had a surplus of musicians we could use as substitutes, similar to the second string of a football team? Equally talented but not quite first string? I know I would be pretty happy with a few extra Bass II's lying around. How do we impress upon our performers their importance without creating diva performers? How do we impress upon their parents their importance to our ensembles?

While it is true that not every kid in our bands, choirs or orchestras are stellar singers or players, the contribution made creates the whole. No matter how many years I have spent in a classroom, I still take this stuff personally. Wonder why that is.

*Share your thoughts.  
Barbararetzko@hotmail.com*