



Robert Musser Conducting Fellowship 2026-2027

Tacoma Concert Band is pleased to announce the 6th annual “Robert Musser Conducting Fellowship.” This award will be granted to a band director who exhibits the skills and potential to become a strong musical leader in our community.

Opportunities

The recipient of the Robert Musser Conducting Fellowship will receive the following:

Mentorship: One academic year of personalized coaching from the Tacoma Concert Band conductor. These sessions will address areas such as:

- a) conducting and rehearsal techniques
- b) music selection and score study
- c) instrument pedagogy
- d) classroom observation and feedback

Resources: In addition to receiving mentorship from the conductor, the recipient will be encouraged to use members of the Tacoma Concert Band as resources. Possible areas could be grade-level music selection, instructional strategies, or classroom instrument clinics.

Performance: The recipient will have opportunities to rehearse and conduct a music selection during the Tacoma Concert Band performance season at the Pantages Theatre.

Stipend: The recipient will be awarded \$1,500 to be used for professional development.

Requirements for the Fellowship

The applicant must:

- 1) Be an active band director from Western Washington teaching secondary band (Middle, Junior, or Senior High School) at the time of application.
- 2) Participate in coaching sessions with the Tacoma Concert Band conductor at mutually convenient times.
- 3) Attend Wednesday night Tacoma Concert Band rehearsals. (To be arranged with the Tacoma Concert Band Conductor).

If you are interested in this opportunity and meet the requirements, please submit an application. Applications must be received by **April 17, 2026**.



Robert Musser Conducting Fellowship -- Application for 2026-2027

Name _____ Date _____

Current Teaching Position _____

Grade Level _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Application Materials - Include the following:

- 1) Resume.
- 2) Contact information for at least two references.
- 3) A brief essay to include a description of:
 - a) Your goals for future growth as a conductor and music educator.
 - b) How the fellowship experience will impact your teaching and the students you serve.
- 4) A short video (10-15 min.) of you teaching and rehearsing your ensemble.
- 5) A separate video of you conducting the attached *Star-Spangled Banner* exercise as if in front of an ensemble.
 - a) Direct non-stop as if in a performance.
 - b) Set your camera to give a full body view.
 - c) Evaluation will be based on clarity of direction, appropriate style and gestures, and smooth transitions.

Please send all application materials to:

Bob Rink
Chairman of the TCB Fellowship Committee
ConductingFellowship@tacomaconcertband.org
253-228-7901 (cell)

Thank you for your interest in this fellowship. Applications must be received by April 17, 2026.

Version A

Star Spangled Banner Excerpt

(TCB Conducting Fellowship)

Maestoso

A musical score for a single melodic line, likely a flute or piccolo. The score consists of five staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. Measure 1 (measures 1-4) starts with a dynamic of *mf*. Measure 5 (measures 5-8) includes a first ending (1.) and a second ending (2.), with a dynamic of *mp* and the instruction *legato*. Measure 10 (measures 9-12) continues the melody. Measure 15 (measures 13-16) includes a dynamic of *f* indicated by a crescendo line. Measure 20 (measures 17-20) concludes the piece with a dynamic of *f* indicated by a decrescendo line. The score is annotated with the words "simile" under the first ending and "ritardando" under the second ending.