

# “School Band and Orchestra” magazine: 14th Annual 50 Directors Who Make a Difference

<http://www.sbomagazine.com/current-issue/>

On December 12, 2011, Symphony Publishing’s monthly magazine “School Band and Orchestra” published their 14th annual “50 Director’s Who Make a Difference.” Penn-Delco’s Mr. Doug Raines was selected to represent the State of Pennsylvania for this year’s December, 50 State/50 Top Directors issue. Mr. Raines is the instrumental director for Pennell and Parkside Elementary Schools, and also serves as the liaison to the administration for coordinating Penn-Delco’s music curricula and programs.

“This annual report features an array of outstanding educators whose incredible diversity in style, geography, and demographic setting mirrors the similarly wide range of thriving music programs throughout the country. Teachers who make up the 2011 “50 Directors Who Make a Difference” present an uplifting mosaic of school music programs nationwide.”

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Doug Raines, Penn-Delco School District**

**Years at School: 9, Total Years Teaching: 9**

**Students in Music Program: 150**

**Teaching Philosophy:** As John F. Kennedy said, “All of us do not have equal talent, but all of us should have an equal opportunity to develop our talent.” Students are all different, but they learn best through doing, hearing, seeing, feeling, and verbalizing. Authentic learning is engrained in music. My goal as a teacher is to model and mentor these processes and to provide the motivation for cognitive interaction. I inventory student interests, and make connections to what skills and understandings are to be taught. Lesson planning is a flexible endeavor promoting goals and outcomes to capitalize on any teachable moment. Therefore, education is the art of flexibility to merge what is in a student’s best interest “in the moment” with a “picture in picture” view of your end goal in mind.



Music is for every child and simply “cool!” Do not accept any other viewpoint. Children should be encouraged to participate in music programs and also be provided the opportunity. As a teacher, be willing to collaborate with the community, parents, colleagues, and administrators, while remaining steadfast in your beliefs. Demand rigor and provide challenges. Scaffold to show the simplicity of all concepts and model how analysis and application will provide success.

Have a vision and be willing to refine and adapt it frequently. Think outside of the box. All traditions are created by someone from the past and can be changed if planned and implemented properly. Music is sound in time with varied styles and expression, so elitism in music is invalid. As educators, it is our responsibility to reach out to the unknown within music and to continue to grow as a musician. Technology is one of the best educational vehicles to prepare our 21st-century learners; however it will never supersede traditional hard work and quality music creation.

**Making A Difference In Students’ Lives:** Every student is unique and I strive to instill passion, perseverance, process, performance, and peace within each child through the art of music making. I experience much satisfaction when students “get it,” but the greater impact occurs later when they understand the bigger picture. “The best teacher I will ever have in my life is myself.” When students understand this element of self-discovery, they have attained the pinnacle.

**Most Important Lesson Learned:** As firm as you are in your professional beliefs and philosophies, these ideals will continue to change, adapt and be refined throughout your career.