

News Release

Northwest Iowa High School Honor Band Festival

Approximately 225 high school musicians from 44 area high schools will combine their talents for the 55th annual Northwest Iowa Honor Band Festival Saturday, January 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Eppley Auditorium at the Morningside College Campus in Sioux City. Membership was chosen through auditions held November 7 in Storm Lake from among 450 entries.

_____ High School will be represented by:

The festival will feature two bands of equal size and instrumentation. The bands will rehearse throughout the day preparing music selected by the guest conductors. Conducting this year's festival will be Dr. Calvin Hofer and Dr. Jay Gilbert.

Dr. Calvin Hofer is currently Head of the Music Department and Director of Wind Studies at Mesa State College where he conducts the MSC Wind Symphony and teaches applied trumpet. Dr. Hofer is principal trumpet with the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra as well as the Mesa State College Faculty Brass Quintet. He also plays principal B-flat cornet with the Rocky Mountain Brass Band in Silverton, Colorado. Dr. Hofer received his undergraduate degree from South Dakota State University, his Master of Music Education degree from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, and his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Texas. While at UNT, Dr. Hofer was a finalist in the concerto competition and voted outstanding graduate student in instrumental music.

Before coming to Mesa State College, Dr. Hofer was Director of Bands and trumpet instructor at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa as well as a member of the Sioux City Symphony, Sioux City Jazz Orchestra and Symphony Brass Quintet. Before graduate school Dr. Hofer was the Assistant Director of Bands at Central High School in Rapid City, S. D. where he taught instrumental music in grades 5-12.

Dr. Jay W. Gilbert is director of instrumental music and chair of the Music Department. He conducts the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, and the Tiger Pep Band. He is also the music director of the Blue River Community Band. A native of Madison, Wisconsin, he holds a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and masters and doctoral degrees in conducting from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where he studied with the renowned conductor and arranger, John P. Paynter, and the outstanding orchestral conductor, Victor Yampolsky.

Dr. Gilbert's career as a band director began in the public schools of Wisconsin, where he taught instrumental music in elementary, middle, junior high, and high schools.

Prior to his appointment at Doane, Dr. Gilbert was assistant director of bands at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He has been a guest conductor throughout the United States and Canada. He has also served as a presenter for numerous state conventions and the Midwest International Band/Orchestra Clinic in Chicago

The Northwest Iowa Bandmasters Association, a group of band directors from 15 Northwest Iowa counties, sponsors the concert. Officers of this year's organization include:

President:	Mr. Tom Cronin, South O'Brien High School
Vice-President:	Mr. Paul Jepson, Spencer Middle School
Secretary:	Mr. Michael Pritchard, Bishop Heelan High School
Treasurer:	Mr. Curt Ohrlund, LeMars High School

Tickets for the evening concert will be available at the door. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students.