

1970 ATU Band Camp Transcription

00:12 William Revelli: "You're not reading. You have a quarter rest and an eighth rest: one two teetalee ta dum. You played: one teetalee ta dum. And the measure before that: pada dum pada dum. You have two beats where the note starts on the beat: tada dum pada dum. Then you have the fourth, third beat, a rest: tada dum. And the last notes precisely on four: pada dum pada dum rest pada dum - pada dum pada dum rest pada dum. Then you have two beats rest: one two teetalee ta dum. You have to know what you're doing. From the presto please. One..."

00:58 Narrator: "A severe taskmaster, alternately praising and berating, puts his charges through a grueling three hour rehearsal. The musicians are high school students from Arkansas and neighboring states. The conductor is Dr. William Revelli, one of the top three bandsmen in the United States, and the director of the renowned University of Michigan band."

01:36 Narrator: "The Incantation in Dance, which is being rehearsed, is a difficult musical composition by contemporary composer John Barnes Chance. Until this rehearsal, few students had ever seen the score. Less than ten had ever attempted to play."

01:52 Revelli: "...to play volume and triple forte. Why do you play: ta ta ta ta, Ta! Ta! Ta! Ta! Ta! It's everything you have. Presto..."

02:11 Narrator: "Dr. Ravelli's tactics may seem harsh. At times, young girls have cried and young men considered quitting his band. But even those who bore that brunt and stinging discipline later approached Ravelli to express gratitude for opportunity to work under him because if Ravelli is a special teacher and conductor, these students also are special."

02:33 Revelli: "You can't play that tuba by taking a little tiny breath. You really haven't taken enough breath there to blow out a match. You can't play the tube with that kind of wind. You need volumes."

02:51 Narrator: "Tonight you'll see them at work as Channel 11 presents: The Arkansas Tech Bandcamp."

03:00 Revelli: [music] "I can't hear you."

03:35 Narrator: "The Arkansas Tech Band Camp is one of four camps in the state, one of the largest in the nation. Gene Witherspoon, band director and professor of music at Arkansas Tech, started the camp seven years ago with 250 students. This summer, enrollment reached nearly 700. Most of the campers were senior high school students, but the camp was open to any music student from the seventh grade through high school graduation. 185 were from the greater Little Rock area. The others, the rest of the state and from Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Tennessee, and Louisiana. 50 Junior high, senior high and college band directors served on the faculty. 26 college students, former campers acted as counsel. A typically busy day found hundreds of students seeking out shady spots under the trees for several hours of sectional rehearsals. Sectionals meaning simply that groups of the same instruments worked together."

04:37 [music]

05:38 A faculty member rehearsed a group of saxophone players. Another worked with the trumpets. Still another with trombones. All wood shedding music played by their respective bands. Developing sight reading skills.

05:55 [music]

06:20 [speech] 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. All right. Hands down in just a minute. Now we go back to four in a very legato style, starting at a broad estos. All right. Both hands up For the 123,

06:46 Narrator: each student was required to attend daily classroom sessions to study basic theory and conducting techniques with guest lectures. One of the guest conductors and lecturers was Colonel Harold B Bachman, who is Director of Bands Emeritus at the University of Florida. He founded the Bachman the million-dollar band in the twenties and thirties and is one of the country's leading authorities on band history

07:14 Bachman: "in biblical times. I'm sure that the comes of the Battle of Jericho or bands of Biblical days. But in America, the colonists, early columnists, brought band instruments to America. And we have examples of bands. America way back, long before the Revolutionary period. You may not know that George Washington was a flutist, and when he assumed the command of the armies of the colonies, revolutionary period, he ordered that bands be established within each unit of the army. These bands consisted of Pipes and Drums, mainly. The first band that we had a record of, the real Army Band complete, was the United States Marine Band. Which was organized about 1,800 and had French, orange and overloads and facilities in addition to pipes and gums. For about 30 years, this was a music they had in Washington, DC was this United States Marine Band.

08:29 [drill commands]

08:53 Narrator: "Bandsmen must also learn to march. Immediately following breakfast every morning, hundreds of eager students flooded the practice field to study the techniques of marching skill and will be demonstrated during the football season. Even at so early an hour, the heat and hard work took its toll on the students. Whirling lions worked under the watchful eyes of the visiting instructors. Students of the drum majors craft learned a few precision. So up the sundown, the campers worked diligently to learn as much in their two weeks of tech as they possibly could. Days were so filled with activity that only a few hours of free time were left to the students."

09:42 Narrator: "A large number of campers use the free time they had to try their wings on something new, material they might not get to work on back home. This stage band, conducted by a faculty member, came up with a professional sound after as little as 30 min of rehearsal together

10:00 [music]

13:18 Narrator: "Young musicians today--junior and senior high students--are playing music far superior to that of even ten years ago. They're playing sophisticated and refined instruments that didn't exist ten years ago. Teaching methods of improved directors are able to choose from a larger, much better selection of music so that today's bands can perform almost any kind of music in almost any medium. Dr. drove his students hour after hour, was satisfied with nothing less than perfection in

Ravelli's words: "You can be tough, but after it's over, the kids will understand as long as you have been fair." In a moment the results of those long hours of practice.

14:08 [military jets and advertisement] "Here are new words to a well known song. [song]. The United States Air Force wants young men and women of the highest caliber for America's future. And your own see your United States Air Force recruiter.

15:08 As the relatively new band camp concept and popularity. Our high school and junior high bands in attendance at school concerts may never be standing room. Only many spectators may not watch the band at half time. But those who do may notice the extra polish and precision attributable to men such as Dr. William Ravel. At the beginning of this program, you heard Rivelli rehearsing the honors band in Incantation and Dance by John Barnes Chance. Just one week later, camp director Gene Witherspoon directed the band through that same composition in concert.

15:47 [music: Incantation and Dance, composed by James Barnes Chance, conducted by Gene Witherspoon, performed by the 1970 Arkansas Tech Summer Music Camp Honors Band]

23:26 Narrator: "The camp band concerts received standing ovations, which made the grueling schedule well worth the time and effort. One faculty member commenting on the demanding program, said he had never worked with a more diligent group. There's no doubt that the students enhanced their musical proficiency, but perhaps the discipline gave them something even more important. Even for those students who earlier had shed tears of frustration, the experience was unforgettable, even they, now looking forward to next year at Arkansas Tech Band Camp."

24:45 [music]