

## INTRODUCTION

- Partial replication of Hagá & Olson's (2016) study examining children's perceptions of intellectually humble and arrogant adults
- **Musical Humility** (Coppola, 2019):
  - ✓ Purposeful musical engagement and collaboration
  - ✓ Other-orientedness
  - ✓ Lack of superiority
  - ✓ Acknowledgment of shortcomings and learnability
  - ✓ Healthy pride

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Do band students (middle school, high school, undergraduate) think humble or arrogant band directors are more **likable**?
2. Do band students think humble or arrogant band directors are more **knowledgeable**?
3. Which director would band students hypothetically **prefer** to serve as their band director?

## METHOD

- **Two Targets:** Humble director; arrogant director; both interviewed at a fictional band festival (audio recording)
- **Instrument:** 10-item Musical Humility Scale (MHS-10) (Coppola et al., 2020)
- **Participants:**  $N = 117$
- **Analysis:** 3-way ( $3 \times 2 \times 2$ ) mixed design ANOVA; Chi-Square



# STUDENTS' SOCIAL PERCEPTIONS OF HUMILITY AND ARROGANCE AMONG BAND DIRECTORS

William J. Coppola  
University of North Texas

*Arrogant band directors' heightened confidence and self-proclaimed expertise do not lead students to view them as any more knowledgeable or capable than humble band directors. Indeed, students overwhelmingly prefer humble band directors. There appears to be a greater social benefit to practicing humility in instrumental music education.*



[Link to full JRME paper](#)

## RESULTS

1. Participants thought the **humble target was more likable** than the arrogant target across all school levels.
  - More solidified among HS and UG than MS students
2. The **humble target was** rated as only **marginally more knowledgeable** than the arrogant target.
3. **83%** of participants **preferred the humble target**.

[Link to enlarged graph, table, and references](#)



## DISCUSSION

**Why do people behave arrogantly** despite its negative social appeal? (Leary et al., 1997)

1. **Veridical Egotism:** We buy into feelings of superiority not shared by others
2. **Defensive Egotism:** We compensate for a lack of confidence or expertise
3. **Strategic Egotism:** We alter our self-presentation to impress or intimidate others