

MBA Reading Session, 10/20/2017

- Patton* **Dusk** **Steven Bryant Hal Leonard** **med** This simple, chorale-like work captures the reflective calm of dusk, paradoxically illuminated by the fiery hues of sunset. I'm always struck by the dual nature of this experience, as if witnessing an event of epic proportions silently occurring in slow motion. Dusk is intended as a short, passionate evocation of this moment of dramatic stillness.
- Tunnell* **Proud Spirit** **Swearingen Barnhouse** **med** I love to play marches and this is a great, accessible and fun march to play that isn't Sousa or King. My kids have always loved it and I love it...win win.
- Long* **Persis** **Hosay Pepper** **4** Great parts for all sections. (Percussion will have fun) Beautiful, Lyrical love theme. High velocity chase scene and fugue/development section. Kids like it. Lots of good teaching and learning to be done.
- Herrin* **Synergies** **Sheldon Alfred** **2.5** One of the challenges of having a very small band with sparse instrumentation is finding pieces where most of your band are playing at the same time for most of the piece. Marches work pretty well for this, but often there is still interplay between woodwinds and brass. I haven't had many low brass players for six years. Synergies involves my whole band throughout the entire piece. Nobody gets to rest. I make my students transpose constantly. For instance, my flute players often have clarinet parts besides their own and they have to cover oboe parts and sometimes saxophone lines. I like to teach syncopation, driving rhythms, around legato lines. this piece has it all and not only is it a great teaching piece, my students love it.
- Kloker* **Symphony No. 4 for Winds and Percussion** **Boysen Kjos** **3.5** First, this piece is an opportunity to teach young musicians the Sonata form. Both the 1st and 4th movements are in traditional Sonata form. The program notes help to outline and describe the different sections. In both the 1st and 4th movements there are aleatoric elements for the students. Good percussion writing. I've performed it with as few as 4 players, as many as 10. The piece is 4 movements.
- Kirby* **Blue and Green Music** **Hazo Hal Leonard** **3** Stunningly beautiful. Based on a painting, so very easy to connect with cross curricular stuff, lyrical, phrasing, focus on key of Ab, wonderful mallet parts.
- Kirby* **Overture for Winds** **Carter Bourne** **3.5** Finger challenges for all. Has fast, slow, fast (ABA) for form teaching. Great style teacher of light in 2 and then lyrical.
- Prince* **Great Locomotive Chase** **RWSmith** **2.5** 8th grade band performed this, it stretches them to play higher notes and it has some more technical aspects, it also sounds really great with a larger ensemble.
- Hansen* **Blue Ridge Reel** **Balmages FJH** **2+** Great for teaching syncopation and balance as primary material is introduced and then recedes to secondary material as different themes are added. Fun and up-tempo. Downside - requires several percussionists!
- Nagode* **Cumberland Cross** **Strommen Alfred** **3** My 8th grade band is performing this in October on our Fall concert. The kids love the melodies and rhythms. Just enough challenge. They are always playing away on the parts before and after class. All sections have interesting parts that let them feel important without just "supporting". I would consider this for music festival for a freshman or concert band in a smaller school. You can listen to it and view the score at JWPepper.
- Zehr* **American Riversongs** **La Plante Daehn** This piece is great for festival because it has a wide range of dynamic and stylistic changes which give the students and adjudicators a lot to work with. At the same time the instrument ranges are reasonable enough to allow the work to be done on sound and style, not the technical difficulties associated with high range.
- McPherson* **Pictures at an Exhibition** **trans. Curnow Hal Leonard** **ME** Six movements, quite approachable and very fun to play. I always like giving my kids a chance to perform music from the symphonic repertoire that has stood the test of time.
- Skogley* **Aventura** **Swearingen Barnhouse** **2.5** I have used this piece with a good class C band (grades 7-12) and with a class B band (grades 9-12). Our community band in Great Falls also played this a few years ago. This piece has a lot of real music and good teaching material in it. There are some short solos, a very lyrical section and (of course) some fast, lively parts. Students have always bought into this one, even though it has some challenges. It is also a good audience pleaser. So, good teaching aspects, students like it, audiences like it... what more do we need in a piece of music?
- Lipscomb* **Alligator Alley** **Daugherty Band Quest** **3.5** I used parts of the curriculum provided by Band Quest. - mixed meter, syncopation, importance of note length, chromatic patterns, (I did not have a great or any bassoon player so I rewrote it for a baritone saxophone.
- Leder* **Doctor Who** **Gold/Buckley Hal Leonard** **HS** This piece always kept my students engaged. Meter changes multiple times. the last section is alternating 4/4-3/4, giving a really great compound-meter feel. Demanding dynamic changes, chromatic passages, exiting stylistic changes. While not a typical festival piece, it has a lot to offer, and can really hold up to the scrutiny.
- Dochnal* **Prairie Songs** **La Plante Daehn** **ME** Pierre wrote this excellent work for developing comprehensive musicianship. Check the simple yet compelling songs for text and story (The Pinery Boy, The Turkey Song), dramatic arranging throughout the ensemble, contrasting and meaningful styles, interesting compositional devices for study and performance, and an engaging form. There's plenty to learn from this piece, and performing with understanding makes it all the more joyful to play.
- Barr* **Sun Cycles** **Balmages FJH** **2.5-3** Great if you have standout flutes. Nice emotions and fun for the band to perform
- Drange* **Northwoods: Of Might and Mettle** **RWSmith Belwin** **3.5** I have used this pieces in a couple different High School settings, my own concert band and an Honor Band. It is an awesome overture that traces the roots of lumberjacks in the Northwoods region of Wisconsin and describes musically their daily lives in helping build the mid-west. This piece requires a great deal of percussion and experimenting with creating percussion instruments. There are numerous musical concepts incorporated throughout the piece and several opportunities for solos. The performer has a most demanding job in listening to balance and blend. All of my students have been excited at the challenges and energy this piece brings to them and our audience.

McCrary **Greek Folk Song Suite** **Cesarini** **Mitropa Music** **3** The first movement "O Charalambis" is a lilting melody in 7/8 time, based on a song used as a "tease" at Greek weddings. The second movement "Stu Psiloriti" is a haunting, lyrical folk tune from the Island of Crete. The third movement is based on the folk tune "Vasilikos tha gino" and has characteristics of the sirtaki, a popular Greek folk dance. The melodies are memorable, the style is authentic and it's a great piece for teaching about Greek culture. I programmed this piece with my 9-12 grade band.

Berdahl **Slavic Scherzo** **Compello** **3+** This Slavic-flavored tune offers an excellent emphasis in 6/8 time, including the use of quarter notes in that quarter note "triple feel" in 6/8, with excellent dual melodies. And, it accelerandos to the end for a fiery exciting performance that audiences, (and the kids) will love!

OTHER TUNES SUBMITTED

Berdahl **Danzas Cubanas** **Sheldon** **4** Super cool latin style concert piece, Afro Cuban style - ala Gloria Estefan "Conga".uper cool latin style concert piece, Afro Cuban style - ala Gloria Estefan "Conga".

Berdahl **Danzpn No. 2** **Arturo Marquez** **4.5** More serious

Berdahl **Solas Ane'** **Hazo** **Hal Leonard** **4** Very lyrical and expressive, beautiful taste of "Aireland" (that's my accent working there...) Includes fun ensemble work with percussion and upper woodwinds on a jig style section while a half time chorale over the top. One of my kids' favorites.

Barr **The Big Sky** **Bobrowitz** **none** **3** Great mix of rhythms and harmonies along with sounds of Montana. Every time I have used this piece, it has made my bands better. Plus it challenges the percussionists to count independently.

Barr **Our Yesterdays Lengthen Like Shadows** **Hazo** **Hal Leonard** **3** Gorgeous music. Teaches sustain and chordal listening skills. Students love the intensity.

Hansen **Childhood Hymn** **Holsinger** **Wingert/Jones** **2** Very lyrical for teaching phrasing/intonation.

Hansen **Cajun Folk Songs** **Ticheli** **Manhattan** **3+** Works well with upper ensembles who have developed musical independence. Lyrical first movement and exciting mixed meter second movement.

Prince **Rain** **Brian Balmages** **2.5** great clarinet parts, very beautiful and audiences don't get the chance to hear impressionistic kind of music that often.

Prince **Jungle Dance** **Balmages** **2.5** great rhythmic work and independent line work, fun upbeat tempo

Prince **At Twilight** **Tyler S Grant** **1** beautiful slow piece but easy enough that 7th graders can start getting musicality going and work a lot on dynamics and blend

Prince **Heartland** **Steve Hodges** **1.5** slow piece, beautiful saxophone part, also another one 7th graders can get musical with

prince **Coliding Visions** **Balmages** **1.5** good for 6th grade, has faster section and slower section, will push their ranges a bit

Prince **Shadows Unleashed** **Balmages** **1.5-2** works on accidentals like nobody's business! Good for tempo changes and dynamic contrast and fund parts for most instruments.

Prince **Spirit of the Sea** **O'Loughlin** **1.5** 6-7th grade, fun rolling faster piece sounds harder than it is

Prince **Starburst Fanfare** **Shaffer** **0.5** works on independent line, makes 5th graders sound more mature than they are, clarinet part kinda sucks L

Prince **Beethovens Ninth** **0.5** good all around 5th grade piece melody spread around, and it is based on ode to joy

Kirby **Prelude, Siciliano and Rondo** **Arnold** **Carl Fisher** **4** Another great classic. Has a little bit of everything with 3 movements. Great for solidifying triple meter skills, technically challenging for even the lows, great trumpet solo.

Sticka **March to Castle Rock** **Hodges** **Alfred** **1.5** This piece has SO much teachable information. It is a mixed meter (4/4 and 2/4), but an easy one for introducing or reviewing that concept. There are dotted eighth, sixteenth rhythms throughout the piece in all parts - a fantastic tool for teaching that rhythm to your band! I also allows for some terrific conversations about the existence and importance of melody, harmony, countermelody, and bass line. The percussion parts reinforce several different length rolls as well as flams, and a variety of eighth note/sixteenth note combinations. Finally, your students will love this delightful march, set in the dark sounding key of c minor. The melody is captivating, and there are challenges in every section, while still allowing you to tweak it for your band (for instance, the 1st clarinet part goes well above the break, while the 2nd clarinet part stays below the break for the entire piece).

Settera **Canticum** **Curnow** **Music Works** **2** I performed this piece with my high school band that consisted of fourteen members. For being a grade 2 piece, it is actually very well written. It begins and ends with a rhythmic, energetic section. However, it also contains a very beautiful legato melody in the middle. This makes it a great contrasting piece for festival! There are several reasons this piece is great for small bands: many of the melodic lines are doubled in other parts, the trumpet 1 part only goes up to an E, and the percussion parts are easily covered with two percussionists. With that being said, our small, inexperienced band was able to handle this piece very well!