

One Year Curriculum for Secondary High School Band

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Goals and Objectives:

- Identify different musical styles
- Identify melodies in different instrumental parts
- Improvise melodies in varying styles
- Describe purpose/place of music in different time periods

Fall Concert (20th Century American Composers)

- Old American Songs (ME)
Aaron Copland
Boosey & Hawkes
- Strike up the Band (ME)
George Gershwin
Alfred Publishing
- Country Gardens (M)
Percy Grainger
G. Schirmer Inc.
- Minnesota March (ME)
John Philip Sousa
Sam Fox Inc.

In *Old American Songs*, melody, harmony, and rhythm are all addressed. There are multiple different American folk melodies that get passed around the band in this piece. The melodies are easy to hear and very distinguishable so the students will be able to easily balance to the melody. In the slower transition areas of the piece, harmony is addressed, because all the instruments have to listen around the band for chord progressions and not a specific melody. This will heighten the students' sensitivity to the sound of the ensemble. Rhythm is very important in this piece. There are multiple rhythmic embellishments in different instruments that add interest to the melody throughout. *Strike up the Band* adds a style change in the concert. Rhythm is addressed in this piece. *Strike up the band* has typical march rhythms that give it a military feel and show the students a new style. *Country Gardens* addresses form and timbre. *Country Gardens* has three main ideas that it returns to multiple times in the piece. Timbre is an important factor in this piece. In the light bouncy sections of the piece, the flute has the melody because the flute's timbre fits the style of the section. *Minnesota March* is another example of military rhythm and a march form with a trio and key change.

Standards 1, 2, and 3 will be addressed through this curriculum. To learn the melodies that are passed around the ensemble in *Old American Songs*, it will be valuable to have the ensemble sing the different folk songs that are in the piece. Having students play this concert will satisfy the standard of performing on instruments in an ensemble. In rehearsal it would be beneficial to

have the students improvise typical military rhythms for *Strike up the Band* and *Minnesota March* so that they will understand the style of the pieces better.

Winter Concert

- And Bless Us Every One (ME)
William Owens
FJH Music Company Inc.
- Appalachian Carol (ME)
Jerry Brubaker
Alfred Publishing/Belwin Division
- Bells of Joy (ME)
Larry Clark & Rae Moses
Carl Fischer LLC
- For Unto Us (E)
G. F. Handel/Curnow
Curnow Music Press
(Baroque Era)

And Bless Us Every One is a great piece for demonstrating different rhythmic styles, and melody. This piece introduces a middle-eastern feel to the tune *We Three Kings*. This is a tune that the students can recognize, but play it in a different style than what they usually hear. There is also a jazzy rhythm that is introduced. This will help the students learn about jazz style and rhythms. There are multiple recognizable melodies in this piece that the students will be able to easily pick out and listen for. *Appalachian Carol* is a more delicate piece that will allow the students to work on listening for harmonies and musical expression. There is a great deal of long tones in this piece and the students will learn to use dynamics to shape the musical lines and phrases. Students will have to listen to the ensemble to match their harmonies underneath the melody. *Bells of Joy* is a very exciting piece that has an optional choir part. The students will learn rhythm, and melody in this piece. There are some Jazz rhythms in some of the melodies that will reinforce the students' knowledge of Jazz style. *For Unto Us* is from Handel's *Messiah*, and would be a great piece to teach the students about music history and Handel's *Messiah*. The melody of the piece is passed around the band and the students will have to listen for that melody and fit their countermelodies and harmonies into it.

Standards 4, 5, and 6 will be addressed in preparation for this concert. It would be beneficial for the students to pick their favorite holiday tune and arrange it in a Jazz style. Two of the concert pieces do this and this would reinforce the students' learning of the Jazz style. This activity will also be satisfying the standard of reading and notating music. Having the students listen to and analyze the music will help them understand rhythms, dynamics, and overall texture of the piece.

Spring Concert (Folk Songs)

- American RiverSongs (M)
Pierre La Plante
Daehn Publishing

- Deir In De (M)
Warren Barker
C L Barnhouse Co.
- Scottish Portrait (M)
James Swearingen
C L Barnhouse Co.
- Hungarian Dance No. 5 (ME)
Johannes Brahms/Balant
Carl Fischer LLC
(Romantic Era)

American RiverSongs is good at demonstrating melody. The piece uses American Folk songs that are well known and easily recognizable. The students will be able to easily find the melody and play their parts under the melody. *Deir In De* is a good piece to demonstrate texture. The students will have to listen across the ensemble to different harmonies and rhythms, and find the melody within the countermelodies. The students will learn to blend with each other and create textures appropriate for the piece. *Scottish Portrait* and *Hungarian Dance No. 5* are great pieces for teaching rhythm. In these pieces there are a lot of eighth-note and sixteenth-note variations, and subdivision will be helpful for teaching those rhythms.

National Standards 7, and 9 will be covered for this concert. After rehearsals I will have the students evaluate their performances for the day and also have them observe outside performances and evaluate them and write reviews for them. The students will learn about Scottish culture as a preparation for performing *Scottish Portrait*. If the students understand the culture, they will be able to understand the piece better.

Festival

- On a HymnSong of Philip Bliss (ME)
David R. Holsinger
TRN Music Pub. Co.
- British Isles Suite (ME)
Larry Daehn
Daehn Publications
- March of the Roughnecks (M)
Ed Hucceby
C L Barnhouse

On a HymnSong of Philip Bliss is a good piece to work on texture in the band. Moving lines are passed throughout the band and the transitions have to be smooth for the piece to be effective. The students will have to work on blending their sounds so the transitions are fluent and connected. *British Isles Suite* is a good piece to feature the flutes and trumpets melodically and it also provides a different style for the band to play. *March of the Roughnecks* is another different style for the concert. The march is exciting and works on rhythm for the ensemble. There are multiple fast eighth-note sections in the woodwinds, and it will be good for the students to work on subdivision and vertical alignment as a group.

National Standard 8 will be addressed for preparation of Festival. For this concert I will teach the students about what music was for in different time period and different cultures. Music was for more than pleasure in many cultures and I want to teach the students about the importance that music had in history and culture.