

East Greenwich Music Department

List of High Quality Band Literature Grade 3+

Marches

Much like a well written ballad, the march offers bands the opportunity to interpret musical ideas, coach musicianship, and develop technique (especially in groups where this grade level rarely does). Composers like Sousa, Fillmore, and King are going to help grow your group in a way that the latest flashy band work can't. The list of marches below is recommended by Nan Moore, Louisville Male High School, for younger bands.

United Nations – Karl King

The Outlook – Fred Jewell

The Footlifter – Henry Fillmore

Orange Bowl – Henry Fillmore

Cincinnatus – H.A. Vandercook

Imperial March – Karl King

Go Galop – Henry Fillmore/Contorno

North Couth College All Stars – Henry Fillmore

New Music

The works listed in this category are either pretty new or a little off the beaten path. In many cases they are helpful for programming a group with a larger percussion section. While this group represents what we think are some of the highlights of the new literature, a diet of exclusively new publications for your band is somewhat like a diet for your body of simple carbs.

A Little Tango Music – Adam Gorb

Silent Stands the Elm – Roland Barrett

Mountain Thyme – Samuel Hazo (3+)*

In a French Garden – Richard Meyer

The Whispering Tree – George Farmer

Star Ship – Yukiko Nishimura*

Dancing in Rain – Yo Goto

Sketches on a Kentucky Hymn Tune – Todd Stalter

Tangents Angular – Roland Barrett

Clouds that Sail in Heaven – Todd Stalter

Susato Variations – Jacob de Haan*

Building Blocks

Your group may not be ready for some of the repertoire we have listed above. You may need concert filler pieces or you may need works to build the ensemble with during the fall semester. If any of these apply, this final group of works should be helpful. The “building blocks” listed, although programmed often at the middle school level, are quality enough to be worth your time with a young high school ensemble.

Pevensy Castle – Robert Sheldon

Creed – William Himes

Moscow 1941 – Brian Balmages

Shenandoah Tryptych – Brian Balmages

A Tallis Prelude – Douglas Akey

Chant Rituals – Elliott del Borgo

Canto – Francis McBeth

In a French Garden – Richard Meyer

West Highlands Sojourn – Robert Sheldon

A Shaker Gift Song – Frank Ticheli

Chester Variations – Elliott del Borgo

War Horses

This list represents the staples of the Grade 3 literature. They have endured for years while many of their counterparts did not because of the quality of their construction. Any of these would be an appropriate festival piece for a Grade 3 band or supplemental literature for a Grade 4/5 band.

Declaration Overture – Claude T. Smith*

Polly Oliver – Thomas Root*

Variation Overture – Clifton Williams*

Three Ayres from Gloucester – Hugh Stuart*

Festivo – Vaclav Nehlybel*

Overture for Winds – Charles Carter*

Overture in Bb – Caesar Giovannini*

Flourish for Wind Band – Ralph Vaughan Williams*

Chant and Jubilo – Francis McBeth*

Mellow Music

Like the war horses listed above, many of these pieces would be appropriate for a Grade 3-6 band, and in fact, we have programmed several of these pieces with the Wind Ensemble at Madison Central. Devoting time to teaching your band to play this kind of music well is going to make your band better!

They Led My Lord Away – Gordon/Fred J. Allen

The Red River Valley – Pierre La Plante

Deir in De – Warren Barker*

Balladair – Frank Erickson

Air for Band – Frank Erickson*

Precious Lord, Take My Hand – Robert W. Smith

Ammerland – Jacob de Haan*

A Child's Embrace – Charles Rochester Young

In Heaven's Air – Samuel Hazo

O Most Holy Mystery – Victoria/James Curnow (3+)

Aria di Chiesa – Alessandro

Dance Suites

Along with the war horses, this is the core repertoire for the Grade 3 band. The key changes, varying meters and tempi, and rich orchestration of these suites will give your whole ensemble (not just the flutes, clarinets and trumpets) an opportunity to grow.

Dublin Dances – Jan van der Roost (3+)

Hebrides Suite – Clare Grundman*

American Folk Rhapsody 1 – Clare Grundman*

American Folk Rhapsody 2 – Clare Grundman*

Music for the King's Delight – Pierre la Plante*

Prairie Songs – Pierre la Plante*

Fantasy on American Sailing Songs – Clare Grundman*

Songs of Wales – Albert Oliver Davis*

Transcriptions

Transcriptions are a great way to build both an appreciation for the masters of classical music and technique, especially in the woodwinds. In the last several years, many composers/publishing companies have zeroed in on filling the gap between the Hindsley/Calliett transcriptions of yesteryear and the Grade 1 & 2 arrangements.

Finale from Symphony no. 5 – Tchaikovsky/James Curnow*

Academic Festival Overture – Brahms/James Curnow*

Allegretto (from Symphony no. 7) Beethoven/Robert Longfield

Prelude to Act I, La Traviata – Verdi/Leonard Falcone*

Symphony no. 9 "From the New World" – Dvorak/Larry Daehn*

Farandole – Bizet/Larry Daehn*

Fughetta – W. F. Bach/Andrew Balent

Symphony no. 2 – Tchaikovsky/Mark Williams