

Lucas Brown  
Advanced Conducting  
Dr. Rolf Olson  
Top Ten Repertoire List

Grade ½

- Power Rock- Michael Sweeney
  - o This is a great piece of music that introduces the beginners to pop music. I feel that it follows the guidelines of the method book very nicely and it has the melody in all instrument families allowing each group to have a chance.
- March Uno- Greg Day
  - o This is a great first march for your beginners, and it introduces, and reinforces many concepts that are introduced in the first year. Eighth notes, staccato, tenuto, marcato, and the use of dynamics (although minimal) it helps them understand the use of contrast in music.
- Flash Point- Patrick Roszell
  - o This is a great concert opener for beginning band, it is a little more difficult than most beginning pieces, I used this more with my 6<sup>th</sup> grade intermediate band as the range is an octave, and the rhythm and writing is a bit more difficult than that of most first year pieces.

Grade 1-

- Talon- Brian Bankston
  - o This is a great piece. It holds its own in musicality and style. It has a mixture of genres in it ranging from a touch of rock, to classical, even sounds from a movie. This is a fail proof piece of music that is loved by most students.
- The Steel Mill- Rob Grice
  - o This piece is really simple, uses basic articulation and sparse unison lines, allowing the students to really focus on listening across the group and work on blend and balance. They are able to listen and share what they heard when they are playing, allowing you as the teacher to mediate the conversation and focus on musicality.
- Renaissance Fair- Robert Sheldon
  - o This piece is a great piece for first year band students, and it focuses only on the first five notes. It has a simple melody that is passed around to all the sections allowing them to all show off their sections in a soli passage. It introduces the use of dynamics. Basic articulation and tonguing, and really allows the students to focus on using a good tone while they are playing their first full length concert piece.
- Theme and Variations- Timothy Broege
  - o This piece is a staple in my book, although this publishing company levels their music a little differently than most, and their pieces are at times a little difficult this piece is a great way to introduce theme and variation. It is set in a minor

tonality, and really focuses on the use of the theme and variation. There are about four different variations in this piece and each are a little different allowing the simple melody at the beginning to still be heard in each of the variations.

#### Grade 1.5-

- Pulse Pounding- Sean O'Loughlin
  - o This is a great piece, that I find is a must play because it has a very bold sound. With the use and simulation of an iron worker with the pounding of iron other metallic sounds which seems to resonate well with the students.
- Battlesong- Randall Standridge
  - o This piece is a must play because it introduces a very basic start of the polyphonic world of music. It starts with a simple unison line and then breaks off into four different parts working together to create a basic but polyphonic sound.
- Jurassic Park (Main Theme)- J. Williams/Arr. Wilson
  - o This is a must play, a brief but beautiful introduction to the world of music themes. Almost guaranteed that the students will fall in love with the lush and rich harmony produced in this arrangement.
- Tu Ungane- Scott Wilson
  - o This piece is a great introduction that is a must play for all intermediate bands, and an outstanding introduction to the use of multicultural music in the classroom, and their instrument to great this festive multicultural experience.

#### Grade 2-

- Christmas Around the World- Michael Story.
  - o This is a great piece of music that is a little older but it introduces the different cultures of the world through the use of Christmas Themes that are recognized by most.
- Apparitions- Brian Balmages
  - o This is a novelty piece, but a must play that is not only creepy but a great experience for both your audience and your ensemble. Using percussion instruments and alternative ways to play them, this piece allows your students to play a reachable piece with unconventional methods.
- The Gentle Mist of Spring- James Swearingen
  - o This piece is a simple ballad that uses rich harmonic structure, simple rhythms, and dynamics that are no more than a forte or mezzo level, and a simple relative key change in the middle allowing them to play a powerful and moving ballad.

#### Grade 2.5-

- Fanfare for the Third Planet- Richard Saucedo (Flex Band)
  - o These arrangements although flexible are amazing in their own regard, holding true to its original level, it also holds the intent of the original piece also. With the use of only 5 harmonic parts the music is playable in many ways, with ensembles of many different sizes. But is still full and rich. This piece is a must

play, as a concert opener allowing the glory of your group to shine. It has a bright and flashy sound and shows of the timbres of the band in all aspects. Uses of multimeters, and all articulations, accents, and great phrasing.

- Canticum- James Curnow (Flex Band)
  - o This piece is a very stately piece, all groups that I have used this with would say that it has great quality and helps portray an assertiveness to war. This piece is also a great work for festival that is played frequently.
- Fanfare and Flourishes (For A Festive Occasion)- James Curnow
  - o This is a great piece, that can be used for numerous things such as coronation for prom or homecoming, graduation, and even a concert opener. I find this to be a great piece that allows the students to take ownership within their sections and families to make sure that they are playing musically, with guidance from the director.

#### Grade 3-

- Highlights from *"The Greatest Showman"*- Arr. Michael Brown
  - o This is a great piece and must play currently. The music in this piece not only poses a challenge for your ensemble but it carries a great message about how differences are not a concern if you reach for your dreams, and that being different is something that is a positive thing and helps you stand out.
- Rhythm Danse- Richard Saucedo
  - o This piece although difficult is a great piece and a must play. The 5/4 meter poses a counting challenge and is also great for festival. The rhythm and instrumentation make this piece a staple in the band world.
- Renaissance Suite- Tielman Susato/Arr. James Curnow
  - o This piece is a great staple in the band world, remastered several times, and now for Flex Band. This piece is a great introduction to the renaissance style and period in music history. It allows the teacher to teach the students about the use of music in an antiphonal setting and can be performed in the same manner.

#### Grade 4-

- ....Joy in All Things- Brian Balmages
  - o This is an amazing piece, although I have not had a group that is able to play this piece, I have had the opportunity to conduct it in the beginning of my career as a substitute, and it is on my list and will remain there as it is a great overture that will last a lifetime.

#### Grade 5-

- ...Go- Samuel Hazo
  - o This piece is on my Bucket List, uses multimeters, heavy percussion, massive family choirs (Brass and Woodwind), and is a piece that soars it will floor your audience in any occasion.