

The FJH Music Company  
Series Guidelines Overview  
and Selection Criteria  
(revised Feb. 2004)

Below is a brief overview of each grade level which is presented more in depth in the following pages. However, a brief note on general selection criteria applies to all grade levels and should always be considered.

**All pieces will be evaluated in terms of musical integrity.** Most band directors and conductors in general will agree that the majority of published music these days tends to be more commercial in nature with less emphasis placed on compositional integrity, musicality, and pedagogy. We feel that it is important to stress the musical value of each piece, and will only consider pieces that fall into this category.

**FJH Starter Series (Grade .5)**

Ideal for the first several months of instruction. All instruments are limited to a six note diatonic range and the piece is playable with only flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet, and trombone. Several exercise lines are included to help teach different elements of the piece.

**FJH Beginning Band Series (Grade 1):**

These pieces are appropriate within the first year of instruction. Clarinets do not go above the break. Plenty of doublings throughout with appropriate amounts of rest.

**FJH Developing Band Series (Grade 1.5):**

Slightly more advanced than beginning band, 1st clarinets start going over the break. Rhythms and ranges are expanded to accommodate the end of first-year instruction as well as the beginning of second-year instruction.

**FJH Young Band Series (Grades 2–2.5):**

Appropriate for middle school and smaller high school groups. 2nd clarinets usually stay below the break. Parts begin to have more independence, and instrumentation increases slightly.

**FJH Concert Band Series (Grades 3–4):**

Appropriate for upper-level middle school and high school groups. Includes expanded instrumentation and ranges.

**FJH Symphonic Band Series (Grades 5–6)**

For advanced high school, college, and professional ensembles

***Note that range guides are provided for each grade level. These are the absolute maximum ranges. However, a jump to the extreme range could result in a higher grade level (i.e. an octave jump in a trumpet to its highest available note often does not keep it in the same grade level). Be sure to write pieces that are playable in a realistic setting.***

THE FJH MUSIC COMPANY  
Series Description Guidelines

Starter Series  
Grade .5

- \* Must be playable using Concert Bb through G of a Bb Major Scale
  - *Very limited use (if any) of sharps or flats, and must be among the first learned*
- \* Pieces must be performable using only flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet, and trombone.
  - \* It is recommended that the piece is written using only these five instruments.
- \* Keys: Bb, Eb, and relative minors
- \* Meters: 4/4, 2/4
- \* Rhythms: Quarter notes, eighth notes (2 max in a row), limited use of dotted quarter
- \* Should be approximately 30–35 measures long (close to 1 minute)
- \* **Should include 3–4 supplementary exercises** (4–8 bars) to help students learn the piece.  
Supplementary material is provided at the end of the piece in the score
- \* Special considerations: Horn and Tenor Sax parts may need to be adjusted to double different voices throughout in order to maintain a comfortable range.

Instrumentation (no div. and only one part per instrument):

Flute  
Oboe (doubles flute)  
Bassoon (doubles trombone, but supply its own line in score)  
Bb Clarinet (always below break)  
Bb Bass Clarinet (doubles trombone)  
Eb Alto Sax  
Bb Tenor Sax  
Eb Baritone Sax (doubles trombone)  
Bb Trumpet  
F Horn (always doubled - often in A. Sax)  
Trombone  
Baritone/Euphonium (doubles trombone)  
Tuba (doubles trombone 8vb)  
Bells (doubles flute - written 8vb)  
Snare Drum/Bass Drum  
Percussion (strongly recommended to include a 2nd part, but should always be optional)  
Can include instruments such as Cr. Cym., Sus. Cym., Tri., and Tom-toms...

**Grade .5 Score Setup, Range, and Rhythm Guide**

	Available Rhythms					
Flute						
Oboe						
Bassoon						
B♭ Clarinet						
B♭ Bass Clarinet						
E♭ Alto Saxophone						
B♭ Tenor Saxophone						
E♭ Baritone Saxophone						
B♭ Trumpet						
F Horn						
Trombone						
Baritone/Euphonium						
Tuba						
Bells						
Snare Drum Bass Drum						
Crash Cymbals Triangle						

THE FJH MUSIC COMPANY  
Series Description Guidelines

Beginning Band Series  
Grade 1

- \* Keys: Bb, Eb, (F), and relative minors
- \* Meters: 4/4, 2/4, 3/4
- \* Rhythms: Quarter notes, eighth notes, dotted quarter
- \* Should be approximately 50–70 measures (assuming 4/4 time)
- \* Great care should be taken to write idiomatically for each instrument using good voice leading  
Avoid awkward skips (particularly in Bass Clarinet and Bari Sax)

Instrumentation:

- Flute
  - Oboe (always doubled)
  - Bassoon (doubles trombone, but supply its own line in score)
- Bb Clarinet 1 & 2 (one part is also acceptable - always below break)
  - Bb Bass Clarinet (doubles trombone - always below the break)
- Eb Alto Sax (occasional div. acceptable, but not very often)
  - Bb Tenor Sax (always doubled)
  - Eb Baritone Sax (doubles trombone)
- Bb Trumpet 1& 2 (one part is also acceptable)
  - F Horn (always doubled – often in A. Sax and T. Sax)
- Trombone
  - Baritone/Euphonium (doubles trombone)
  - Tuba (doubles trombone 8vb)
  - Bells
  - Optional Timpani (if desired)
  - Snare Drum/Bass Drum
- Percussion (a second part is encouraged, but should be optional. This way, groups with a lot of percussionists can keep them all busy)

### Grade 1 Score Setup and Range Guide

Available Rhythms

Flute	$\text{d}$	$\text{b} \text{p}$	-	-	$\text{o}$	$\text{p}$	-	-	-	-	-	-								
Oboe	$\text{d}$	$\text{p}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bassoon	$\text{b} \text{d}$	$\text{b} \text{p}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B♭ Clarinets	1	$\text{d}$	$\text{b} \text{p}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	2	$\text{d}$	$\text{b} \text{p}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B♭ Bass Clarinet	$\text{d}$	$\text{b} \text{p}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
E♭ Alto Saxophone	$\text{d}$	$\text{p}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B♭ Tenor Saxophone	$\text{d}$	$\text{p}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
E♭ Baritone Saxophone	$\text{d}$	$\text{p}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B♭ Trumpets	1	$\text{d}$	$\text{p}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	2	$\text{d}$	$\text{p}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
F Horn	$\text{d}$	$\text{b} \text{p}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Trombone	$\text{b} \text{d}$	$\text{b} \text{p}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Baritone/ Euphonium	$\text{b} \text{d}$	$\text{b} \text{p}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Tuba	$\text{b} \text{d}$	$\text{b} \text{p}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bells	$\text{d}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Snare Drum Bass Drum	$\text{d}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Percussion (Crash Cymbals, Suspended Cymbal, Triangle)	$\text{d}$	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

THE FJH MUSIC COMPANY  
Series Description Guidelines

Developing Band Series  
Grade 1.5

- \* Keys: Bb, Eb, F, and relative minors
- \* Meters: 4/4, 2/4, 3/4 (very easy cut-time - possible to play also in 4/4)
- \* Rhythms: Quarter notes, eighth notes, dotted quarter  
Syncopation allowed, but should not have more than two before falling on a strong beat
- \* Should be approximately 50–70 measures (assuming 4/4 time)  
No more than 1 page parts
- \* Great care should be taken to write idiomatically for each instrument using good voice leading  
Avoid awkward skips (particularly in Bass Clarinet and Bari Sax)
- \* Solos allowed in major instruments, but should always be marked as “Optional”

Instrumentation:

Flute (occasional *div.* allowed, preferably on long sustained notes)  
Oboe (always doubled, or optional)  
Bassoon (doubles trombone, but supply its own line in score)  
Bb Clarinet 1 (limited writing above the break)  
Bb Clarinet 2 (below the break)  
Bb Bass Clarinet (doubles tuba - below the break)  
Eb Alto Sax (occasional *div.* acceptable, but not very often)  
Bb Tenor Sax (always doubled)  
Eb Baritone Sax (doubles tuba)  
Bb Trumpet 1  
Bb Trumpet 2  
F Horn (always doubled – often in A. Sax and T. Sax)  
Trombone (can have separate part from tuba, but not overly difficult)  
Baritone/Euphonium (may double tuba or trombone as necessary)  
Tuba  
Bells (tends to double flute - written 8vb, but can be doubled with other instruments and have some minor independent work)  
Timpani (if desired - no more than two drums allowed with no re-tuning)  
Snare Drum/Bass Drum (or similar instruments...)  
Percussion (strongly recommended to include - possibly 2 Percussion Parts if one is optional)  
Can include instruments such as Cr. Cym., Sus. Cym., Tri., and Tom-toms...

### Grade 1.5 Score Setup and Range Guide

**Available Rhythms**

**Flute**

**Oboe**

**Bassoon**

**B♭ Clarinets**

**B♭ Bass Clarinet**

**E♭ Alto Saxophone**

**B♭ Tenor Saxophone**

**E♭ Baritone Saxophone**

**B♭ Trumpets**

**F Horn**

**Trombone**

**Baritone/Euphonium**

**Tuba**

**Bells**

**Snare Drum  
Bass Drum**

**Percussion  
(Crash Cymbals,  
Suspended Cymbal,  
Triangle)**

THE FJH MUSIC COMPANY  
Series Description Guidelines

Young Band Series  
Grades 2 and 2.5

- \* Keys: Bb, Eb, F, (Ab) and relative minors / modes  
(C) possible for Grade 2.5
- \* Meters: 4/4, 2/4, 3/4, cut-time, limited 6/4, 5/4 (6/8 and 3/2 limited, and only with grade 2.5)
- \* Rhythms: Use of dotted eighth - sixteenth permitted, but limited
  - Grade 2.5 – Limited use of 16th notes – preferably in groups of 2, but occasionally in groups of 4 when pedagogically appropriate
- \* Should be approximately 60–100 measures (1 page parts preferred, 2 pages limited)
- \* Great care should be taken to write idiomatically for each instrument using good voice leading
  - Avoid awkward skips (particularly in Bass Clarinet and Bari Sax)
- \* Solos allowed in major instruments, but do not have a lot of individual solos.

Instrumentation:

Flute (option of having 2 parts, especially in grade 2.5)  
Oboe (usually doubles flute)  
Bassoon (doubles tuba or baritone)  
Bb Clarinet 1  
Bb Clarinet 2 (below the break with few options to go above)  
Bb Bass Clarinet (mostly doubles tuba and mostly below break if not entirely)  
Eb Alto Sax (option of having 2 parts, especially in grade 2.5)  
Bb Tenor Sax  
Eb Baritone Sax (doubles tuba)  
Bb Trumpet 1  
Bb Trumpet 2  
F Horn (always doubled – often in A. Sax and T. Sax)  
Trombone (option of having two parts, especially in grade 2.5)  
Baritone/Euphonium  
Tuba  
Bells Also can consider “Mallet Percussion” instead of Bells alone  
Timpani (no more than three drums allowed with limited re-tuning)  
Perc. or Snare Drum/Bass Drum (or similar instruments...)  
Percussion (strongly recommended to include)  
Additional percussion suggested if appropriate (should be designed to be optional)

## Grade 2-2.5 Score Setup, Range, and Rhythm Guide

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Concert Band Series

Grade 3-4

- \* Keys: Bb, Eb, F, Ab, C and relative minors
- \* Meters: Duple and triple meter allowed (including 6/8 etc...) – some mixed meter if approached very logically
- \* Should be approximately 120–140 measures (generally 1–2 page parts)  
Grade 4 can be longer if necessary
- \* Great care should be taken to write idiomatically for each instrument using good voice leading  
Avoid awkward skips
- \* Solos allowed in major instruments – if desired in another instrument (i.e. horn), cue in an appropriate major instrument
- \* Can have more independence within the bass voices of the group, but continue to have a strong low voice doubling (mostly at grade 3)

Instrumentation:

Piccolo (in grade 3, should mostly double flute 1)

Flute 1

Flute 2

Oboe (continue to double, but starts to gain more independence – cued solos are allowed)

Bassoon (continue to double - cued solos are allowed)

Bb Clarinet 1

Bb Clarinet 2/3

Bb Bass Clarinet

Eb Alto Sax 1

Eb Alto Sax 2

Bb Tenor Sax

Eb Baritone Sax

Bb Trumpet 1

Bb Trumpet 2/3

F Horn 1/2 (Continue to double important lines)

*F Horn 3/4 (for grade 4 and higher)*

Trombone 1/2

Trombone 3 (should not be an integral part in grade 3)

Baritone/Euphonium

Tuba

Mallet Percussion

Timpani (allow for ample re-tuning time if necessary)

Percussion 1 (S.D., B.D., etc...)

Percussion 2 (Sus. Cym, Cr. Cym, Tri., etc...)

Additional percussion if necessary

### Grade 3 Score Setup, Range, and Rhythm Guide

Additional rhythms possible  
if approached well

Opt. Picc as well)  
Follow Flute 2 range 1  
in general)

**Available Rhythms**

8 maximum in general  
-More possible if approached well

Flutes	1	2	3	4	5

Oboe

Bassoon

B♭ Clarinets	1	2	3	4	5

B♭ Bass Clarinet

E♭ Alto Saxophones	1	2	3	4	5

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

E♭ Baritone Saxophone	1	2	3	4	5

B♭ Trumpets	1	2	3	4	5

F Horns	1	2	3	4	5

Trombones	1	2	3	4	5

Baritone/Euphonium	1	2	3	4	5

Tuba	1	2	3	4	5

Bells	1	2	3	4	5

Timpani	1	2	3	4	5

Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum)	1	2	3	4	5

Percussion 2 (Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbal, Triangle)	1	2	3	4	5