

Grade Level: 6

Title: Exploring Band Repertoire and Building a Concert Program

Activity Description:

In this activity, students will explore a curated list of level 2–3 concert band pieces. They will listen to recordings, examine scores (where available), and analyze elements such as style, difficulty, instrumentation, and emotional impact. Working in small groups, students will create a sample program for a themed concert and present their rationale for each selection.

Learning Objectives: (What will the students be able to do/demonstrate after they complete this activity?)

Identify and compare stylistic and structural elements in concert band repertoire

Evaluate repertoire for appropriateness based on ensemble level, instrumentation, and thematic cohesion

Collaborate to create a thoughtful and engaging concert program

Justify musical choices based on audience, performers, and artistic goals

Steps: (How will you facilitate the activity? What will the students do? What are the steps you and/or the students will do in each of the following areas?)

Introduce topic– present the idea of a concert program and discuss key considerations (audience, difficulty, variety, theme)

Time for exploration– students listen to recordings and explore selected pieces from the provided list; *optional: provide printed or digital scores for reference sound*

Time for practice– guide students in reviewing the grade levels and characteristics of each piece; have them take notes on tempo, style, and overall feel

Peer Collaboration– form groups of 3–4 students and assign the task of creating a 3–5 piece concert program based on a chosen theme or narrative arc

Sharing– groups present their programs to the class, explaining the logic behind the order and selection of pieces

Reflection– students write a short response about what they learned about repertoire planning, challenges faced, and how they might approach programming in the future