

Blue Shades Lesson Plan

Level	Advanced High School Band Grade level: 4.5
Standard	Ensembles: Performing—Convey Meaning Through the Presentation of Artistic Work Adv.MU:E.Pr6 Demonstrate an understanding and mastery of the technical demands and expressive qualities of the music through prepared and improvised performances of a varied repertoire representing diverse cultures, styles, genres, and historical periods in multiple types of ensembles.
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What: Rehearse the solo section of “Blue Shades” (mm. 276-308) 2. How: Play through the section once. Afterward, have a conversation about the jazz style and difficulties of the ensemble/soloist relationship. Define how the piece will be conducted, with a lot of rubato and giving space to the soloists. The goal is to give soloists space for expression, while also allowing the ensemble to come in together in a way that supports the solos. This rehearsal also requires taking time to outline different dynamics and articulations that best support the solos.
Welcome Routine	Define rehearsal start 5 minutes after the period begins. Play a jazz song (Artie Shaw Clarinet Concerto) so that the piece ends right at the five minute mark, and have everyone setup by the time the piece is finished. During this time (and during the social activity if necessary), a previously appointed ensemble representative can take attendance.
Social Activity	Allow students to talk within sections about their plans for Memorial Day weekend. After, invite anyone to share their plans with the whole class.
Stretching/Breathing Exercise	Direct everyone to put their instruments on their chairs and have enough room to stand and extend their elbows. Go through a quick stretch routine (15-30 second hold for each stretch around the body) and do two to three breathing gym exercises. Finish the exercises with metered breathing exercises. (in 8 out 8, in 4 out 4, in 2 out 4, in 1 out 8, in 1 out 16).
Musical Warm-Up	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. F Major scale long tones 2. D minor scale long tones 3. Learn D minor blues scale and swing it (Have notes prepared and written on board beforehand)

Tuning Procedure	Have the tubas provide a low concert F. Once they are in tune with each other, invite the principal players of each section to tune to the tubas. After a few seconds, allow the rest of the band to tune. If the band does not stop on its own, or too many people are playing instead of tuning, stop the band and continue with rehearsal.
Play	Play music! Depending on how much rehearsal time there is, or if other pieces need to be rehearsed, either play through all of “Blue Shades” before the target section, or just look at the solo section.