



ENSEMBLE MUSIC

OPEN CLASS: INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED SKILLS



BOX 1	BOX 2			BOX 3			BOX 4			BOX 5		
VOID OF INTERMEDIATE 0 – 49	EMERGING INTERMEDIATE			ESTABLISHED INTERMEDIATE			EMERGING ADVANCED			ESTABLISHED ADVANCED		
	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-83	84-88	89-92	93-95	96-98	99-100
	SOME	MOST	ALMOST ALL	SOME	MOST	ALMOST ALL	SOME	MOST	ALMOST ALL	SOME	MOST	ALMOST ALL

(SAMPLE ACROSS ALL MUSICAL ELEMENTS OF THE ENSEMBLE)

CONTENT

Whose CONTENT offered the greater:

- **RANGE, VARIETY & DEPTH OF TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITIES:** *The range, variety, depth & compatibility of class-appropriate technical responsibilities across all elements of the ensemble—including (but not limited to) tempi; rhythms; meters; attacks/releases; articulation; enunciation & intervallic responsibilities; staging orientations & environments related to time & pitch.*
- **RANGE, VARIETY & DEPTH OF DYNAMIC & EXPRESSIVE RESPONSIBILITIES:** *The range, variety, depth & compatibility of class-appropriate dynamic & expressive responsibilities across all elements of the ensemble—including (but not limited to) shaping; inflection; phrasing & expression.*
- **QUALITY OF THE ORCHESTRATION:** *The compatibility & quality of orchestration choices as appropriate for the ensemble—including (but not limited to) class-appropriate voicing; phrasing; dynamic contouring; shaping; inflection; tonality & idiomatic integrity.*

SUB-CAPTION
SCORE
100

ACHIEVEMENT

Whose PERFORMERS achieved the better:

- **ENSEMBLE COHESIVENESS & RHYTHMIC CLARITY:** *The degree to which the ability to establish & maintain ensemble tempo/pulse control & rhythmic accuracy/stability—both vertically & horizontally—is developed & achieved across all elements of the musical ensemble.*
- **BLEND, BALANCE & DYNAMIC CONTROL:** *Considering all dynamic ranges, the degree to the ability to control dynamics, blend & balance is developed & achieved across & between all elements of the ensemble.*
- **TONE QUALITY & INTONATION:** *The degree to which class-appropriate tone quality & intonation is developed & achieved across all elements of the musical ensemble. This includes (but is not limited to) quality & consistency of sound & tone production; sonority & timbre; melodic & harmonic intonation.*
- **MUSICIANSHIP & ARTISTRY:** *The degree to which class-appropriate knowledge, skill & artistic sensitivity in performing all aspects & qualities of the musical content is developed & achieved across the entire musical ensemble. This includes (but is not limited to) phrasing, expression & style.*

SUB-CAPTION
SCORE
100

STYLISTIC DIVERSITY IS ENCOURAGED AND ALL STYLISTIC CHOICES HAVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCCESS.

The points of comparison listed above collectively represent a balanced assessment of the caption and are not intended to be in priority order.

Achievement should be recognized and rewarded through the balanced consideration of ALL aspects of BOTH sub-captions!

Measure the degree of success and achievement along the continuum and then compare to determine:

Who is better (ranking) and by how much (spreading), in order to arrive at each sub-caption score and the total score (rating).

TOTAL
MAX
SCORE
200

SPREAD GUIDELINES	Very Close	Slight Advantage	Advantage	Decision
100-point sub-caption scale	1	2	3	4+
200-point total score scale	1-2	3-4	5-6	7+

(SAMPLE ACROSS ALL MUSICAL ELEMENTS OF THE ENSEMBLE)

BOX 1	BOX 2			BOX 3			POINTS OF COMPARISON	BOX 4			BOX 5		
VOID OF INTERMEDIATE	EMERGING INTERMEDIATE			ESTABLISHED INTERMEDIATE				EMERGING ADVANCED			ESTABLISHED ADVANCED		
0 – 49	50-54 SOME	55-59 MOST	60-64 ALMOST ALL	65-69 SOME	70-74 MOST	75-79 ALMOST ALL		80-83 SOME	84-88 MOST	89-92 ALMOST ALL	93-95 SOME	96-98 MOST	99-100 ALMOST ALL
Intermediate offerings are not present.	Skills & qualities offer some complexity & dimensionality, with moderate to good variety drawn from a basic to intermediate scope. Moderate to good dynamic/tempo/expressive range with clear contrasts & some gradations. Slight to moderate layering of efforts.						CONTENT	Skills and qualities offer good complexity, dimensionality and frequency, with moderate to strong range, variety, and depth drawn from an intermediate to advanced scope. Good to strong dynamic/tempo/rhythmic/spacial/expressive range, with clear contrasts and a variety of gradations. Moderate to strong layering of efforts.					
	A wider range of tempi & articulations (staccato, legato & slurred). More complex rhythms & meters (duple & compound); increased musical range (upper tessituras & lower range) & intervallic responsibilities.						RANGE, VARIETY & DEPTH OF TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITIES	More extreme changes of tempo; compound & complex meters & rhythms; complex articulations (double &/or triple tonguing); styles from various genres; extreme range demands; expanded intervallic responsibilities & melodic runs requiring complex finger combinations.					
	Moderate range &/or variety of emerging intermediate responsibilities. Some may be more prominent & this may vary from section to section.			Good range & variety of established intermediate responsibilities, evenly distributed throughout the ensemble. Depth is emerging.				Moderate range, variety & depth of emerging advanced responsibilities. This may vary from section to section.			Good to strong range, variety & depth of established advanced responsibilities, evenly distributed throughout the ensemble.		
	A wider dynamic range & shaping of phrases with some complexity & dimensionality.						RANGE, VARIETY & DEPTH OF DYNAMIC & EXPRESSIVE RESPONSIBILITIES	An expansive dynamic range & shaping of phrases & individual notes with good complexity, dimensionality & frequency.					
	Moderate range &/or variety of emerging intermediate responsibilities. Some may be more prominent & this may vary from section to section.			Good range & variety of established intermediate responsibilities, evenly distributed throughout the ensemble. Depth is emerging.				Moderate range, variety & depth of emerging advanced responsibilities. This may vary from section to section.			Good to strong range, variety & depth of established advanced responsibilities, evenly distributed throughout the ensemble.		
	Orchestration shows good consideration of the skill development & instrumentation of most elements in the ensemble with more advanced phrasing demands & style choices.						QUALITY OF THE ORCHESTRATION	Orchestration is challenging & shows strong consideration of the skill development & instrumentation of all elements in the ensemble with advanced phrasing, style choices & multiple styles.					
A foundation for intermediate achievement is not present.	Emerging & somewhat compatible orchestration of a moderate range of intermediate components.			Established & mostly compatible orchestration of a good range of intermediate components.				Emerging & mostly compatible orchestration of a moderate to good range of advanced components.			Established & fully compatible orchestration of a broad & creative range of advanced components.		
	Moderate individual skill, strength & stamina emerging from a good technical foundation & a broader range & variety of responsibilities. Moderate to good ensemble awareness & individual ability to fulfill an intermediate role within the ensemble. Achievement may vary between responsibilities, sections & over time.						ACHIEVEMENT	Good to strong individual skill, strength & stamina emerging from a strong technical foundation & a broad range & variety of more advanced responsibilities. Good to strong ensemble awareness & individual ability to fulfill a more advanced role within the ensemble.					
	Matching of technique is good, articulations & note lengths are mostly consistent. Timing issues are infrequent. Expanded & moderately layered/simultaneous physical responsibilities do not compromise the musical excellence.						ENSEMBLE COHESIVENESS & RHYTHMIC CLARITY	Technique is consistent throughout the ensemble & more difficult articulations are consistent throughout sections. Moderately to strongly layered/simultaneous physical & spacial demands enrich the technical & expressive achievement.					
	Moderate achievement of intermediate skills is emerging but may vary.			Good achievement of intermediate skills is established throughout the ensemble.				Good achievement of advanced skills is emerging but may vary.			Strong achievement of advanced skills is established & sustained throughout the ensemble.		
	Individual players & voices/sections are aware of their musical roles within the ensemble with some unbalanced moments.						BLEND, BALANCE & DYNAMIC CONTROL	Individual players & voices/sections are consistently successful in their musical roles within the ensemble.					
	Moderate achievement of intermediate blend, balance & dynamic control is emerging but may vary.			Good achievement of a wide range of intermediate blend, balance & dynamic control is established throughout the ensemble.				Good achievement of moderate range & depth of advanced blend, balance & dynamic control is emerging but may vary.			Strong achievement of a good range & depth of advanced blend, balance & dynamic control is sustained throughout the ensemble.		
	Tone quality is more consistent throughout the ensemble. Intonation is mostly consistent with slight distortions of sound.						TONE QUALITY & INTONATION	Tone quality is full & consistent. Ensemble is consistently in tune, even in extreme range demands & technically complex passages.					
	Moderate achievement of a good range of intermediate qualities is emerging but may vary.			Good achievement of a broad range of intermediate qualities is established throughout the ensemble.				Good achievement of a moderate range of advanced skills is emerging but may vary.			Strong achievement of a broad range of advanced qualities is sustained throughout the ensemble.		
	A good understanding of the chosen musical style(s) exists & is often demonstrated.						MUSICIANSHIP & ARTISTRY	Multiple musical styles/genres may be explored with the appropriate technique for each.					
	Moderate achievement of a good range of intermediate qualities is emerging but may vary.			Good achievement of a broad range of intermediate qualities is established throughout the ensemble.				Good achievement of a moderate range of advanced skills is emerging but may vary.			Strong achievement of a broad range of advanced qualities is sustained throughout the ensemble.		