



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+



OPEN CLASS
ENSEMBLE MUSIC
(SAMPLE ACROSS ALL MUSICAL ELEMENTS OF THE ENSEMBLE)

BOX 1 VOID OF INTERMEDIATE	BOX 2	BOX 3	POINTS OF COMPARISON		
			OPEN CLASS		
intermediate offerings are not present.	A wider range of tempi & articulations (staccato, legato & slurred). More complex rhythms & meters (duple & compound); increased musical range (upper tessituras & lower range) & intervallic responsibilities.	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 throughout the ensemble, evenly distributed throughout the ensemble, even though it is emerging.	RANGE, VARIETY & DEPTH OF DYNAMIC & EXPRESSIVE RESPONSIBILITIES	Moderate range, variety & depth of emerging advanced responsibilities. This may vary from section to section.
A foundation for intermediate achievement is not present.	Moderate individual skill, 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.	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.	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.	Tone quality is more consistent throughout the ensemble. Intonation is mostly consistent with slight distortions of sound.
A good understanding of the chosen musical style(s) exists & is often demonstrated.	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.	MUSICIANSHIP & ARTISTRY	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 foundation for intermediate achievement is 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.	A wider range of tempo; compound & complex meters & rhythms; complex articulations (duple &/or triple tonguing); styles from various genres; extreme range demands; expanded intervallic responsibilities & melodic runs requiring complex finger combinations.	RANGE, VARIETY & DEPTH OF TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITIES	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 throughout the ensemble, evenly distributed throughout the ensemble.
A foundation for intermediate achievement is not present.	Moderate achievement of a good range of advanced skills is emerging but may vary.	Good achievement of a wide range of intermediate blend, balance & dynamic control is sustained throughout the ensemble.	BLEND, BALANCE & DYNAMIC CONTROL	Strong achievement of a good range & depth of advanced blend, balance & dynamic control is emerging but may vary.	Tone quality is full & consistent. Ensemble is consistently complex passages, even in extreme range demands & technically complex passages.
A good understanding of the chosen musical style(s) exists & is often demonstrated.	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.	INTONATION	Good achievement of a moderate range of advanced skills is emerging but may vary.	Multiple musical styles/genres may be explored with the appropriate technique for each.
A good understanding of the chosen musical style(s) exists & is often demonstrated.	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.	MUSICIANSHIP & ARTISTRY	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.