

Playing Examples:

1. Inchon

- Robert W. Smith
- Alfred Publishing Co.

This piece is written for full orchestra. It would be a great challenge for your advanced string group combined with your winds, brass and percussion. It is about the Korean conflict in the middle of the 20th century. It highlights oriental melodies contrasted with the sound and feel of battle. Through out the battle sections the percussion does an incredible job at simulating the sound of a helicopter landing and flying over. The students will love it's excitement and emotion of this piece. I think that it would give them a great insight into a different culture and help them connect more with the people of Korea.

2. Eleanor Rigby

- John Lennon & Paul McCartney (arr. Moore)
- Hal Leonard Publishing Co.

The Beatles were incredible! Their use of structured but unique harmony gives them a sound found nowhere else. Many of the kids will recognize this piece, but even those who don't will love it. The original version actually has a string quartet in it. This piece has a inimitable blend of the classical and pop-rock style.

3. Serenade for Strings

- Dvorak, A
- Edwin F. Kalmus

This piece is not easy. It can only be pulled off by an advanced high school group. Putting that aside, it is incredible. Its romantic style will captivate the players and listeners emotions. They will never forget playing this piece.

4. Ashokan Farewell

- Bob Cerulli
- Alfred Publishing Co.

This arrangement is not very difficult, but it is stunning. It come from the PBS special "The Civil War." It starts out with a solo violin, (just like in the movie) and can be played with a full orchestra or just strings. This song has definitely withstood the test of time. It will be a classic forever. This will give your students a chance to really play from their heart.

5. Hatikvah (The Hope)

- Elliot Del Borgo
- Carl Fischer LLC

Hatikvah is the national anthem of Israel. Students need to know the hearts and souls of people across the world. They can do that through their music. "Know a man's

music and you will better know the man.” This arrangement takes the simple folk melody and turns it into a masterpiece. It features many different styles throughout. The students will love this piece.

6. Deep River

-Carrie Lane Gruselle

-FJH Music Co. Inc.

Deep River is a timeless African-American spiritual. (Again, “Know a mans music and you will better know the man.”) This arrangement is sure to bring out your students' most expressive performance yet! It is not too difficult, so you can focus on working on their phrasing, tone, intonation and vibrato.

7. Saint Paul’s Suite

-Gustav Holst

-G. Schirmer, Inc.

This piece needs to be played by every string player at some point in his/her life. It is a classic that again brings out many different styles and technique. It will really give your students a fun and exciting challenge to up their playing skills.

8. After a Dream

-Gabriel Faure (Arr. Preucil)

-Alfred Publishing Inc.

This piece is a great one to feature your string orchestra and soloists. It has an enchanting melody not to be forgotten. Faure gives all who participate in his music the opportunity to dream. That’s what I love about him. All people need to experience his music, whether listening or playing.

9. All The Pretty Little Horses

-Douglas Townsend (arr.)

-Carl Fischer LLC

Every since I was a child this has been one of my favorite songs. (My mother used to sing it to me.) Because it is so dear to my heart, it gives me an opportunity to express my feelings and emotion about music, and how it has affected my life. Students need to hear these things. It is a simple folk melody that is eloquently and powerfully written for sting orchestra. There is a section in the middle that a string quartet is featured.

10a. Anitras Dance

-Edvard Grieg/ Finno

Kendor Music, Inc.

This version is a little simpler than the original, but it keeps all the musicality of the original. It’s just more playable for less experienced players. It is so much fun to play. Your students will really be able to get into it. It tells a story. Make sure your students know the story. Or, have them come up with their own story. Below is the information for the full Suite for your advanced group. It’s incredible! (it is a little bit simpler than the Kalmus version.)

10b. Peer Gynt Suite

-Advard Grieg/Simpson

-Masters Music Publications Inc.

Summary:

I feel that I have listed a good variety of music for the student to play here. There is multi-cultural music, rock, classical, romantic, and these pieces also have a descent range of playing ability from fairly easy for your beginning group, to pretty difficult for your advanced groups. It is so important to do two things; challenge and stimulate. Your students need and want to be challenged. They will grow and learn so much more when they are. But, they also need to be stimulated. There needs to be a good mix of familiar and new music. Often playing something that they have heard before gets them excited, but they also need to be introduced to new music. I believe that I have presented music that will challenge as well as stimulate.

1. Myth

-George Crumb

-Ancient Voices of Children/Music for a Summer (5:12)

This piece will scare the socks off of them first off. (it did me the first few times I heard it.) The beginning is so soft but interesting that it completely draws their attention, until ... boom! It is great for the kids to hear something different every once in a while. It will get their imaginations going.

2. Main Title and First Victim [Jaws]

-John Williams

-Jaws The Collector's Edition Soundtrack (3:14)

All the kids will recognize this one. They will be excited to realize that this is actually real music. You will be able to discuss Theme's and Motif's with them. John Williams is a name that they all should know. Have them all tell you their favorite John William piece. If they don't know, have a list for them with all his works on their. They are bound to know several of them.

3. Nocturne In E Minor, Op. 72 No. 1

-Chopin

-Chill With Chopin (4:42)

This enchanting piano piece by Chopin is a beautifully written piece. It is a great introduction for them into two against three meter, rubato and other compound meters and rhythms. 7/3, 8/3, 11/3 also exist.)

4. Bring Him Home

-Claude-Michel Schonberg

-Les Miserables The Complete Symphonic (3:27)

What a beautiful message! Give your students a copy of the words so they can read along, (Maybe the second time through so they are not distracted the first time.) This timeless song, with it's simple yet captivating melody has the ability to wrap it's self around your heart. Your students need to experience that.

5. Barbara Allen

- King's Singers (Arranger)
- Watching The White Wheat: The King's Singers (3:34)
- (Also listen to: Londonderry Air - Irish3:08)

Barbara Allen is a folk tune that has been sung and recorded in so many different ways. The form of the piece is worth looking at, and also a discussion on the story that the piece tells us. I chose the King's Singers for the beautiful tone and intonation. It would be good for my string players to hear that vocally. Often what we do as instrumentalists, is try to imitate voice.

6. Get Away, Jordan

- Take 6
- Take 6 (4:26)
- (Also listen to David and Goliath 4:29)

Take 6 has the best word painting and vocal impersonation that I've ever heard. They can sound just like instruments! There are parts in this song where they are imitating a brass quintet. It is so cool! Their harmony is relaxing and their intonation is perfect.

7. Down South Camp Meetin'

- The Manhattan Transfer
- Bodies and Souls (3:02)

Manhattan transfer has such a unique style. Their ability to articulate so perfectly and articulately amazes me. They have beautiful jazz harmonies. This song is about the religious revivals back in the early 19th century.

8. Prelude from Suite One

- John Sebastian Bach
- Cello Suites (2:32) (Naxos of America)

Bach's harmonic and chordal structure, order, and organization needs to be studied and listened to. Most of the students will recognize this piece. I hope that discussion about this piece will help give your students more of the respect and honor that Bach deserves.

9. The Prayer

- Andrea Bocelli
- Sogno (4:30)

This song, written in Italian and English will give your students an introduction into music of another language. Somehow they will be able to relate and understand meaning during the Italian parts, just from hearing a little English here and there. Also the music itself is able to tell the story and bring the emotion that the piece entails.

10. Seaside rendez-vous

- King's Singers (Arranger)
- Good Vibrations (2:25)

This is one of the most fun songs I have ever heard in my life. They use so many different accents to portray different characters or moods during the song. There is a section where all of them are using Kazoos. The kids will love this and want more.

Summary:

I decided to use a lot of vocal music for my instrumental students. They have heard a lot of the instrumental, but often have not been exposed to much vocal music. I feel that I have presented a good collage of different types of music to give them a more broad understanding and appreciation. There is a good mix between fun and more serious pieces to keep them interested. One thing that I love to do when I have my students listen to music, is to have some kind of listening guide. I usually have them draw a picture or symbols that come to their mind while they are listening and then have them talk about and share them with the class.