

Proposal  
for the  
Creation of a New System  
of Music Classification, Selection, and  
Programming

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Submitted to the MBA Executive Board  
by

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# **CONTENTS**

New Proposal

“Sample” Music List

Thoughts for Implementation and Maintenance

Anticipated Benefits and Drawbacks

### New Concert Programming Proposal:

- 1) Compile a new music list consisting of 80 pieces.
- 2) Assign a point value (1-5) to each piece on our new music list based on the difficulty level of the piece.
- 3) Ensure that there are 10 one-point selections, 15 two-point selections, 20 three-point selections, 20 four-point selections, and 15 five-point selections on the new list.
- 4) Ensure that a variety of styles are present in each point category...ensure that traditional or "classic" literature is represented as well as today's modern literature.
- 5) Compile a "march" list organized in three categories, with ten marches per category.
  - 2 points -- easier marches
  - 3 points -- mid-level marches
  - 4 points -- advanced marches
- 6) Change the rules concerning music programming for state festival:
  - 6A Bands must attempt eight points from the list.
  - 5A Bands must attempt seven points...
  - 4A / 6AII Bands must attempt six points...
  - 3A / 5AII Bands must attempt five points...
  - 2A / 4AII Bands must attempt four points...
  - 1A / 3AII Bands must attempt three points...

Bands who have not earned a Superior rating within the past three years will be allowed to meet the requirements from one level lower than their actual classification.

The MBA should actively encourage consistently Superior-rated band programs to meet the requirements of a higher classification.

Provide some type of positive recognition for band programs who exceed their classification requirements and still achieve Superior ratings...or put a different way, we should meet the needs of the average program while remediating struggling programs and providing enrichment for high-achievers.

- 7) Replace one-fourth of the list every year. A song will spend a maximum of four years on the list before it rotates off. Every year, 25% of the list should be replaced with a mix of classic and contemporary literature of the highest quality.

The selections and categories below are meant to simply illustrate the structure of the newly proposed system.

**ONE POINT SELECTIONS** -- challenging selections for good junior high school bands

Chorale Prelude: For the Beauty of the Earth	Smith, Claude T.
Ash Lawn Echoes	Smith, Robert W.
Ashton Overture	Swearingen, James
Two British Folk Songs	del Borgo, Elliot
Dance Episodes	Curnow, James
In the Wake of Spring	Swearingen, James
December Sky	Morales, Erik
As Winds Dance	Hazo, Samuel
Pinnacle	Grice, Rob
Pevensey Castle	Sheldon, Robert

**TWO POINT SELECTIONS** -- challenging selections for outstanding young bands

Encanto	Smith, Robert W.
The Last to Defend	Shaffer, David
Little Suite for Band	Grundman, Clare
Thematic Variations on Dona Nobis Pacem	Sudduth, James
American Pioneer Suite	Fox, Andrew
Into the Clouds!	Saucedo, Richard
When the Stars Began to Fall	Allen, Fred
Then I Saw the Lucent Sky	Stalter, Todd
Rain	Balmages, Brian
Joy	Ticheli, Frank
Cumberland Cross	Strommen, Carl
Tricycle	Boysen Jr., Andrew
Jubilance	Swearingen, James
Estampie	McBeth, W. Francis

**THREE POINT SELECTIONS** -- challenging selections for average high school bands

Overture for Winds	Carter, Charles
Anthem for Winds and Percussion	Smith, Claude T.
Simple Gifts: Four Shaker Songs	Ticheli, Frank
American Riversongs	LaPlante, Pierre
Three Ayres from Gloucester	Stuart, Hugh
Ascend	Hazo, Samuel
Let Us Break Bread Together	Root, Thomas
With Quiet Courage	Daehn, Larry
Ballade	Jenkins, Darren
Ammerland	de Haan, Jacob
Deir'in De	Barker, Warren
Old Scottish Melody	Wiley, Charles
DeerPath Dances	Holsinger, David
River of Life	Reineke, Steven
Festivo	Nelhybel, Vaclav
Gypsy Dance	Compello, Joseph
I Am	Boysen Jr., Andrew
Abracadabra	Ticheli, Frank
Yorkshire Ballad	Barnes, James
Ghost Fleet	Sheldon, Robert

**FOUR POINT SELECTIONS** -- challenging selections for excellent high school bands

Dedicatory Overture	Williams, Clifton
A Festival Prelude	Reed, Alfred
A Longford Legend	Sheldon, Robert
Symphonic Episodes	Balmages, Brian
Mercury	Van der Roost, Jan
River Valley Celebration	Gorham, David
Rhosymedre	Vaughan Williams, Ralph
Perthshire Majesty	Hazo, Samuel
Australian Up-Country Tune	Grainger, Percy Aldridge
Loch Lomond	Ticheli, Frank
Havendance	Holsinger, David
Allegro Barbaro	Bartok, Bela
Chorale and Shaker Dance	Zdechlik, John
The Ascension	Smith, Robert W.
Gavorkna Fanfare	Stamp, Jack
Down a Country Lane	Copland, Aaron
Chant and Jubilo	McBeth, W. Francis
Concord	Grundman, Clare
Courtly Airs and Dances	Nelson, Ron
East of the Sun	Prescott, John

**FIVE POINT SELECTIONS** -- challenging selections for extraordinary high school bands

Where Never Lark Or Eagle Flew	Curnow, James
El Camino Real	Reed, Alfred
Satiric Dances	Dello Joio, Norman
Prelude, Siciliano, and Rondo	Arnold, Malcolm
Trittico	Nelhybel, Vaclav
Cloudsplitter Fanfare	Stamp, Jack
Ride	Hazo, Samuel
The Promise of Living	Copland, Aaron
Early Light	Bremer, Carolyn
Symphony #3, fourth movement	Barnes, James
Othello, third movement	Reed, Alfred
Festivo	Gregson, Edward
Kaddish	McBeth, W. Francis
Incantation and Dance	Barnes Chance, John
Macchu Picchu: City in the Sky	Yasigawa, Satoshi

**ONE POINT MARCHES – easy**

Gallant Marines	King / Swearingen
Hosts of Freedom	King / Paynter
Mighty Mite	Mesang
Military Escort	Bennett

**TWO POINT MARCHES - medium**

Brighton Beach	Latham
Circus Days	King
British Eighth	Hilliard

\*\*\***NOTE:** Each march level will eventually contain ten selections. This is simply a representative group.\*\*\*

**THREE POINT MARCHES – advanced**

Arsenal	van der Roost
Americans We	Fillmore
The Big Cage	King
Semper Fidelis	Sousa
Amparito Roca	Texidor

### **Thoughts for Implementation and Maintenance:**

- The MBA executive board will establish a committee of six band directors (one from each classification 1A-6A) and one MBA executive board member. The executive board member will serve as chair of the committee.
- The committee will compile a list similar to the one presented in this proposal. Suggestions, opinions, and other input from the MBA membership should be sought whenever possible. The final list for 2009-2010 should be completed by Summer 2009 and included with the 2009-2010 MHSAA Band Information Manual.
- The committee should meet at the 2009 MBA State Clinic to present ideas for new additions to the list. The committee members should study the proposed additions and meet again in April-May 2010. At this meeting, five selections in each category of the current list should be replaced with five new additions. The updated list will govern music selection for 2010-2011 and be released with the 2010 MHSAA Band Information Manual.
- Criteria for music categories should be as follows:
  - One-point songs should challenge and expand the abilities of a good junior high school band.  
(example: *Ash Lawn Echoes*, by Robert W. Smith)
  - Two-point songs should challenge and expand the abilities of an outstanding young band.  
(example: *Prairie Dances*, by David Holsinger)
  - Three-point songs should challenge and expand the abilities of an average high school band.  
(example: *River of Life*, by Steven Reineke)
  - Four-point songs should challenge and expand the abilities of an outstanding high school band.  
(example: *A Festival Prelude*, by Alfred Reed)
  - Five-point songs should challenge and expand the abilities of an extraordinary high school band.  
(example: *Trittico*, by Vaclav Nelhybel)
- Selections should remain on the list for a maximum period of four years. Selections should remain off of the list for a minimum of two years before being reinstated.

### **Anticipated Benefits of the Proposed System**

- Clear and concise Required Music List (RML).
- Inclusion of criteria for music classifications.
- Removal of low-quality compositions from the RML.
- Directors of Grade 1 and Grade 2 band programs will be provided with a pool of quality selections from which to choose.
- Enables the MBA and the Music Selection Committee to promote the performance of classic band literature as well as encourage the performance of cutting-edge band compositions.
- Struggling band programs would be aided by the remedial provision of the system. Currently, our struggling programs cannot play a "required" selection from below their classification. With the new remedial provision, programs that have not earned a Superior rating within the past three years will have the option of fulfilling the requirements of one classification lower than their actual classification.
- Good band programs will be further developed due to the increased rigor of the three-point portion of the RML. The three-point category of the sample RML is quite similar to the current list's 4A classification.
- Outstanding band programs will have another level of motivation. Most of our "outstanding" programs perform music similar to that found in the four-point category of the sample RML. Providing a fifth category stocked with some of the finest and most sophisticated literature will give our outstanding bands a real challenge.

### **Anticipated Drawbacks of the Proposed System:**

- Lack of input from the MBA membership could result in fewer new selections being considered.
- Committee members would have to "create" time for study of new music, meetings, etc.
- Under this proposal, 4A-6A bands would have to program two selections from the RML. Directors of these bands would be limited to one "selected" piece.
- Despite all efforts, the MBA executive board, music selection committee, and even the MHSAA could be faced with many instances of confusion as we implement the new system.
- The remedial provision will benefit 2A – 4A bands more than 1A, 5A, or 6A bands. A struggling 6A band would still be required to attempt seven points, which could still force them to play a selection that is well above their skill level.