

All-State: New Music Reading Session Recommendations

The New Music Reading Sessions are always an important part of the All-State Teacher's Workshop. Here are the suggestions compiled by Jennifer Arco (Owatonna), Brenda Lund (Fairmont), Cynthia Johnson (Winona) and Ed Schaeffle (Anoka). The * for each piece indicates how many of the contributors mentioned it. The publishers represented include J.W. Pepper of Hopkins, Mark Hellem of St. Paul and Thom Sharp of www.sharpmountainmusic.com.

Badelt/Moore, *Pirates of the Caribbean; graded easy; consists of 3 songs from the movie — *Medallion Calls*, *Blood Ritual* and *Black Pearl*; many teachers said they had a better version



Bartok/Monday, *Romanian Folk Dances; good for 9th-10th grade ensemble; very close to the original; arranger kept overall character of the work

Beethoven/arr. Hoffman, *March Petite; graded medium easy; very similar to original; Violin I part all in 1st position

Boyce/arr. Folus, *Symphony No. 1; graded medium easy; three movements — fast/slow/fast; traditional Baroque sound; G Major

Johannes Brahms/arr. Thom Sharp, *Der Gang zum Liebchen; listed grade 3, should be 4; g minor; violin 1 range to 5th position; viola/cello/bass up to G; active violin 2 part, slurred eighth notes; beautiful melody, but needs a mature sound; some editing needed for fingerings where violin 1 and viola shift; above average interest

Joseph Compello, *Chesapeake Sails; graded medium easy; G Major; very nice; all parts good and interesting; driving rhythms

Doris Gazda, *Rip Roarin' Fiddlin'; graded very easy; Western style; mostly high/low 2, but extension in cellos and high 3 C# in violins; average interest

****Carrie Lane Gruselle, *Secret Agent 440***; definitely a crowd pleaser; easy and

kids would like it; fun! loved it! not too hard

****arr. Gruselle, *World Lullabies from A to Zzzz***; good arrangement; lots of variety both with rhythms and styles; graded easy; more difficult than it's E rating suggests; consists of 6 well-known and not so well-known baby lullabies

Frank J. Halferty, *Soda Creek Hoe-down; graded very easy; Western style; all parts are interesting — better choice than Gazda's piece; excellent elementary piece

Handel/arr. Caponegro, *Themes from the "Hallelujah Chorus"; graded easy; very easy; sounds very good with open strings; D Major

Mark Hellem, *Feliz Navidad: Spanish Carols; grade 3; three movements — D Major, d minor to D Major, and G Major; violin I has some 3rd position; interesting rhythms.

Mark Hellem, *Frailach: Klezmer Dance; grade 4; based on "Jewish" scale - F# and E \flat in scale; 2 \flat 's in key signature but not sure if it was in g minor for very long; nice syncopated rhythms; 4 pages long!!!

Mark Hellem, *Soldier's Joy; grade 4; two traditional fiddle tunes; melody passed around to all sections; D Major

Mark Hellem, *Spooky Classic; grade 3;

piece; familiar English carol in a setting with interest in all parts; above average interest

arr. Hellem, *Quickstep; good middle level piece; fiddle style (but not western); features basses; light; 6/8 time with nice effects including col legno; high interest

Robert Longfield, *Momentum; nice piece for a 7th grade ensemble; easy but entertaining

arr. Marshall/Phillips, *Cookin' Cabbages; graded easy but harder than that if played fast enough; basically an extended string orchestra version of *Bile 'em Cabbage Down*; 2 pages long; all parts received good comments.

*****arr. Marshall/Phillips, *MacPherson's Lament***; graded medium easy; interesting at first with good parts for low strings, but it didn't seem to sustain that interest all the way through; good for 9th grade ensemble; nice overall but ends fairly abruptly; very interesting viola, cello, bass part

****arr. Robert D. McCashin, *Dumfries Place***; good for young orchestra; students would like this work but a little on the easy side; nice

Mendelssohn/arr. McCashin, *Andante; graded medium easy, but requires mature tone; original (Symphony #5 slow



Mvt I, *Goblin*, has great opening for cello/bass; this is later copied by all instruments; Mvt II, *Rest in Peace*, slower, more solemn; in d minor; Mvt III in G major, 6/8 time signature, has some A#, more difficult movement than the others

arr. Hellem, *Gloucestershire Wassail; possibly more effective as a small ensemble

movement) is mostly strings, and this arrangement includes the few wind lines in the string parts; it is OK, but I would wait until high school, when the group can play the real thing and follow with the *Mighty Fortress* finale

Richard Meyer, *Incantations; graded medium; high school level; many different

rhythms, time meter changes; very interesting piece

****Richard Meyer, *Kabuki Dance***; graded very easy; Oriental sound, imaginative scoring for all; excellent elementary piece; nice for a 6th grade ensemble; fun

Richard Meyer, *Professor Wigstein's Amazing Melody Machine; graded medium easy; music representing the melody machine is more challenging; the familiar classics are all pizzicato and very easy; classics include *Ode to Joy*, *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, a *Sousa March* and ends with *Funeral March* and the machine dying with a sssssss...

****Richard Meyer, *The Yuletide Rag***; OK arrangement; fun for kids and good introduction to the rag style of playing; graded medium easy; *Jingle Bells* Scott Joplin style

Mozart/arr. Hellem, *Andante and Contradance; appropriate for 9th grade orchestra; good introduction to classical style; shifting to 3rd position; some passages could introduce 2nd position; high interest.

Soon Hee Newbold, *Le froid de l'hiver (The Cold of Winter); graded easy; very serene mood; key of d minor; some arpeggios in Violin I part; would be good for teaching arpeggios in a concert piece instead of in a boring exercise.

Soon Hee Newbold, *Russian Music Box; graded very easy; very melodic in all parts; good teaching piece for tone; appealing harmonies; excellent elementary piece

Rachmaninov/arr. Cerulli, *Eighth Variation; graded medium; very beautiful and slow; needs an orchestra that has well developed tone and vibrato

Sue Roberts, *Little Bluebird; listed grade 2, should be 3; key of F; difficulty

is in rhythms — syncopation and swing; some quick finger pattern changes to teach involving 4th finger; ad lib solo section; fun walking bass line; melodic writing in all other parts; high interest

Sue Roberts/arr. Thom Sharp, *Remembrance; listed grade 2, but should be grade 3; shifting to 3rd position for violin 1 and cello; key of F; violin 1 and cello are most interesting parts; some four-note slurs crossing strings for cello; easy violin 2 and bass; some melodic lines for viola; average interest

Sue Roberts/arr. Thom Sharp, *Suite from "The Tempest" (Shakespeare); 3 movements; listed grade 2, should be grade 4; outer movements are easier, dance-like, in G major; slow movement is g minor, very beautiful, but with mixed meters, and violin 1 shifts to 5th position; very high interest

Thom Sharp, *Bear Creek Be-Bop; listed grade 1 ½, but should be 2 ½; all in first position except basses to D; higher difficulty is in tempo = 144 with swing eighth notes and slur patterns 3+3+2; bass part is lots of fun and optional piano adds good rhythm section sound; very high interest

Thom Sharp, *Retro Metro Man; listed grade 1 ½, but should be 2 ½; swing style, but parts often move together rhythmically, so it would be a good introduction to this kind of playing; good bass solo passage near the end; bass shifts to D, others playable in 1st position; high interest

Thom Sharp, *A Sally Garden Fantasy; listed grade 3; set of "fantasy" variations on an English folk tune; interesting sounds — harmonics, pizzicato, tremolo; shifting to D in violin 1, to F# in viola, cello, bass; violin 2 not as melodic; as a whole, a nice contrast to most pieces at this level; above average

Thom Sharp, *Salsa Verde; listed grade 1, which suits left hand technique; dotted rhythms and syncopations make it more a grade 2; light; fun; short Latin piece with optional guiro for flavor; viola part is especially good; high interest

Thom Sharp, *Wyoming Cowboys; listed grade 3; commissioned for Wyoming School District in Ohio to teach students about composing; basic motif is presented in various forms and students are encouraged to add others by thinking of phrases (Wyoming cowboys - ride the range) and setting the rhythm to notes in the key (E Dorian); good idea, sounds OK; average interest

****Sousa/Dabczynski, *Stars and Stripes Forever***; good bass and cello parts; easy arrangement and fun to hear

Doug Spata, *Lemon Twist; graded medium easy; great cello/bass lines; rhythms may be challenging; some clapping

****Carl Strommen, *Smoky Mountain Hoedown***; good for 6th grade ensemble; significant piano part included; teaches syncopation; graded easy; easy key

****Sullivan/arr. Dabczynski, *Pirates!***; graded medium easy; medley based on *Pirates of Penzance*; variety of time signatures and keys; good introduction to the concept of an overture for operetta or musical theater; tricky counting

Tchaikovsky/arr. Story, *Dance of the Reed Flutes; graded very easy; familiar Nutcracker melody; interesting for violins, but not others

****Washington & Carmichael, *The Nearness of You***; good pops concert piece; very easy arrangement but nice cello solo; slow, jazzy, might be hard ‡