

All-State: New Music Reading Session Recommendations

The New Music Reading Sessions are always an important part of the All-State Teachers Workshop. Here are the comments and suggestions compiled by Beth Becker, Lynne Bulger and Cassandra Herold. The * for each piece indicates how many of the contributors mentioned it.

***Bach, Minuet and March**, E. Parts are easy, but different from each other. Overall harder than the E rating. 7th grade.

***Bizet/arr. Roy Philippe, Farandole from L'Arlesienne Suite # 2**, Fischer. Keys of dm, D. All parts hooked bows. 1st violin 3rd pos. Challenging but fun. 7th/8th gr.

****G.M. Cohan, Salute to George M. Cohan**, ME. Keys of C, G, D. Basses 3rd and ½ pos. Nice viola parts using C string and ½ pos. Cellos 2nd pos. Good bowing piece. No printed bowings.

***A. Dabczynski, Spin Dreidel Spin**, E. Parts not interesting. Harder than E level.

****Elliot Del Borgo, Fiddling Frenzy**, ME. Violins some 3rd pos. Somewhat interesting, but does not have a “fiddle” sound. Lots of notes; perpetual motion. Some nice cello moments.

***L. Clark, Simple Gifts of Christmas**. Christmas songs interspersed with *Simple Gifts* tune often sound strange together.

****Robert Frost, Deep River**. Key of F. Interesting harmonies. Slow tempo requires bow control. Accidentals will challenge.

***Grieg/arr McBrien, Air and Rigaudon**. Gr. 3. Key of B^b. From the *Holberg Suite*. Get original instead.

****Carrie Gruselle, Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel**. Gr. 2. All instruments have melody; enjoyable harmonies. Nice spiritual. Some straight and some swing 8th notes. Violas some ½ pos.; violins 1st pos.

****Carrie Gruselle, O Desayo**, E/ME. Key of G. Very nice tune in cut time with tricky rhythms. African calypso style; add percussion/maracas. Violas and cellos get small solos. Harder than the E/ME.

****Mark Hellem, Holly and the Ivy**, Gr. 3. 1st violins some 3rd pos. All sections have melody (bass players especially liked it). Counter melodies were interesting.

***Mark Hellem, Little Classic Suite**, Gr. 2. Nice arrangements of classical tunes. 3 short mvts. *Bagatelle* (2nd mvt) particularly nice; melody in all parts; rich sound.

***Mark Hellem, Logan Water**, Gr. 4. Beautiful. Upper 4 parts have solo. Parts often exposed. Excellent for musicality.

****Mark Hellem, Prairie Jamboree**, Gr. 3 & 1. Scored for a multi-age by inclusion of open-string beginner part. Fast/slow/fast format; slow section the most interesting. Fun pizz techniques for the low strings.

****Dean Marshall, Front Porch Jam**, Highland/Etling. Key of A. Fun! Plenty of “mixed up fiddle bowings” that need flexibility in the wrist and bow arm. Good for extensions. Boring bass part unless you add slaps. 1st violin 3rd position. Piano part included. 9th grade.

*****Richard Meyer, Adventures of String Man**, ME. Key of G. Cute. Melody mostly in 1st violin; cellos, violas and clarinet ringer have solos. Opportunity for superintendent in a cape and spandex to support the orchestra. B^b and low 2s. Some parts harder than ME. Somewhat repetitious.

*****Richard Meyer, Dia de la Muertos**, M. Key of G. Frequent meter changes; not difficult to count. Good bass parts. Quite long; repetitious. Interesting rhythms; great cello/bass feature in the middle; beautiful slow section for violins. Good use of spiccato, accents, and col legno. 1st pos. for violins; 3rd pos for solo violin. 9th grade.

***Mozart/arr. Gazda, German Dances, K509**. Melody passed around. F# on the C string makes this 7th grade.

***Soon Hee Newbold, Dragon Dances**. Harder than *Russian Music Box*. Lots of slurs; melody for non-violins. Middle school level.

****J. O'Reilly, Kwanzaa Celebration**. Key of G. Tom toms, claves and cowbell jazz up *Kum Ba Ya* medley. Melody passes from violin 1 to the cello. Easy Fiddle piece.

****Bob Phillips, Basically Bluegrass**, ME. Key of D. Allows proficient and confident bassists to shine. Good parts for all.

****Bob Phillips, Swinging Fiddles**, ME. Violas need a one measure of easy 3rd position. Overall a nice piece to play; fast dotted rhythms; interesting parts all around. Harder than the ME level given.

***B. Rideout, Johnnie the Piper King**, ME. Key of A. Tricky bowing for this Level 3 piece in cut time. Lots of extensions and variations on a theme of an authentic Scottish rendition. Cello part is a glorified bass part. 8th or 9th grade.

***G. Rossini, William Tell Overture**, VE. Nice arrangement. Parts not difficult, but interesting enough.

****Sabien, Levitation**, Highland/Etling. Key of C. Jazz style with solos written out. Listen to it on www.Alfred.com. Uses B^b. Nice intro to jazz style. Repetitious but good call and response. Rhythmic challenges make it high-school level.

***Sabien, Joshua**, Highland. Jazz tune. Kids like it. Manuscript.

***R.A. Svendsen, First Finger Suite—Three Movements for Orchestra**, Latham Music. Truly playable by an elementary orchestra. *Raindrops* and *Little Japanese Girl* somewhat similar. *Autumn Rhumba* a nice contrast; needs piano accompaniment (not difficult) to make the piece sound its best.

***Wagner, Tannhauser March**, ME. Key of C. Dotted rhythms. All in 1st position. Students might enjoy the sound of the piece put together, although individual parts are not as interesting. ‡