

## All-State: New Music Reading Sessions 2019

reported by Kathryn Buccola

Highlights of the first All-State New Music Reading Session were *Instinct*, *Incredibles*, *Water Music*, and *Brandenburg Concerto No. 5*.

*Instinct* by Brian Balmages is listed as a grade 0.5 piece. It includes parts for string orchestra, percussion, and piano. This piece uses the notes of the D major scale and all parts move together in first position. My second year students would like this piece.

*The Incredibles* by Michael Giacchino, arranged by Robert Longfield is listed by J.W. Pepper as a Grade 1. However it is also

described as Medium-Easy and this description fits it better. I would label the grade as a 2.5. This piece helps characterize the superhero nature of the *Incredibles* characters. It includes syncopation and several instances of chromatics.

*Water Music* by G. F. Handel and arranged by Carrie Lane Gruselle. This is a nice arrangement of lesser-known *Water Music* movements. The All-State Workshop cello section said it was fun. This would be a nice piece to practice the baroque style.

*Brandenburg Concerto No. 5* by J. S. Bach, arranged by Richard Meyer, is a nice arrangement; however the Merle J. Isaac arrangement might be better for my students. There is also another arrangement of this piece Richard Meyer did for one of his method books that gives melody to all parts. That idea might keep more students interested with this piece if it is to be simplified.

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