

PREFACE FROM THE COMMITTEE

The 1995, 2001, 2005, 2011, and 2017 committees have made a concerted effort to select literature with the understanding that preparation for performance is important in shaping student taste and appreciation in their formative years. In 1995 Linda Donohue, then President of the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association, charged Dr. Jay Gilbert and the 1995 committee with the responsibility of creating a recommended list of significant teaching and artistic wind band repertoire. The objective decided upon at the outset of this project was the development of a set of procedures that could be replicated by future committees in the formation of this list.

PROCEDURES

The 2017 RML Committee compliments the efforts of the original 1995 RML Committee, under the direction of Dr. Jay Gilbert, for establishing excellent criteria for this music list.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION FOR THE MUSIC LIST

1. The composition provides opportunities for educational and musical growth
2. The composition provides opportunities for technical advancement
3. The composition provides opportunities for the development of the expressive qualities in music (including melody, rhythm, harmony, form, tone color, texture, phrasing, and dynamics)
4. The composition provides opportunities for the development of musical independence
5. The composition represents a balance between repetition and contrast
6. The composition reflects sensitivity in the treatment of block scoring
7. The composition reflects sensitivity toward the possibilities and limitations of each instrument
8. The composition attempts to be genuine and original as an educational and artistic work

The primary list (1995) was derived in part from an examination of books, articles, and researched materials developed by the following: Gary Ciepluch, Thomas L. Dvorak, Robert Garofalo, Robert Grechesky, Joseph Kreines, Cynthia Crump, Peter Schmalz, Larry Blocker, Eugene Corporon, Ray Cramer, Tim Lautzenheiser, Edward S. Lusk, Richard Miles, Jack Stamp, Scott Emmons, Bruce Pearson, Darhyl S. Ramsey, and Marguerite Wilder. Several state lists were consulted including: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin. Also perused was the *Recommended Music List of the National Band Association*.

The 2017 RML encompasses most of the 1995, 2001, 2005, 2010 lists. However, in the interest of selectivity certain pieces were rotated off the list to make room for newly

published works or forgotten gems. The RML Committee recommends that this practice continue to keep the list fresh and up-to-date.

Understanding that the State of Nebraska does not have a list of required music for band programs, the RML Committee has selected compositions that we consider the most "educationally sound" to promote the use of literature that enhances the performance of bands of all levels at contests, festivals, and concert performances.

While what is currently in this book is considered musically and academically appropriate, we have selected pieces from each of the six (6) levels of difficulty that we feel stand above the rest. While not a definitive list, the committee hopes the identification of these core works will assist not only the young, but the experienced music educator as well.

The 1995 committee listed music by grade level, composer, and title. Subsequent committees have added a section for marches and a "core" list of pieces. The 2010 committee created a "new" category for the small school concert band that has incomplete instrumentation and put together a list that would work for these band programs. The 2017 committee has reviewed the lists and added some new compositions and deleted some of the older ones.

GRADING

The 2017 RML Committee assigned the concert band works to appropriate levels consistent with the original RML guidelines of six general grades of difficulty.

- Grade 1 Students in their second year of playing
- Grade 2 Students in their third year of playing
- Grade 3 Junior High and Smaller High Schools bands
- Grade 4 Outstanding Junior High and most High School and Small College bands
- Grade 5 Outstanding High School and good college/university bands
- Grade 6 Exceptional High School and outstanding university bands

Any number of factors make these divisions purely arbitrary. The variability of talent within an ensemble, the uneven distribution of instrumentation and the uneven workload within a specific work (e.g. challenging clarinet parts, simple trombone parts, etc.) as well as the musical maturity versus the technical demands may determine the difficulty of a composition for the educator. These grade levels are only a guideline for selection of works. Each director should use their own judgment to determine what is good for their own programs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2017 RML Committee encourages band directors in Nebraska to continue to select at least one work from the list for performances at each of their events. It is our hope that

school districts will consider this listing as core repertoire for the development of a viable curriculum in each school. We endorse the original NSBA Recommended Music List and believe that this list of music will interface with the National Standards for Education in the Arts.

We also endorse the eight-point criteria as the standard for inclusion of future works. It is recommended that the listing process be updated every five years to include newer works of artistic and/or educational merit.