***Symphonic Sounds:***

 ***A Musicians Guide to developing a Symphony Orchestra at your School***

*Presented By: James Palmer, String Editor, Alfred Music*

*Orchestra Director, Allatoona High School, Acworth, GA*

*Music Director, Youth Orchestra of Greater Columbus*

1. **Why Should I Start a Symphony Orchestra?**
	* The Symphony Orchestra will provide students an opportunity to experience and perform music they could not perform as a string orchestra or a band.
	* The Symphony Orchestra will promote respect for fellow students in other ensembles.
	* The Symphony Orchestra will provide an opportunity for colleagues to develop a collaboration and a meaningful PLC (Professional learning Community).
2. **Where do I start?**
	* **Prepare yourself to become the Music Director of the Symphony Orchestra.**
		+ Research and understand how a Symphony Orchestra functions.
		+ Develop a model for rehearsal and performance.
		+ Listen to many recordings and resources and begin to develop **appropriate** repertoire.
		+ Reach out to friends and colleagues and learn the successes and challenges of their experiences with a Symphony Orchestra.
	* Begin Dialogue with your Colleague(s) across the hall.
3. **Rehearsal Models and Scheduling**
	* **The Youth Orchestra Model (Orchestra and Band Directors are Co-Conductors)**
		+ By Audition
		+ Once a week after school (Evening) 2 ½ Hour rehearsals
		+ Regular coachings and sectionals from local professionals
		+ 2- 3 concerts per year
	* **The Extra-curricular Model (Orchestra Director is the only Conductor)**
		+ Once a week rehearsal after school with Winds/Brass and percussion for a determined period of time
		+ Strings work on the string parts in orchestra class on a regular basis, and join the Winds/Brass and Percussion as the concert gets closer.
	* **The Combined Ensemble Model (Orchestra and Band Director are Co-Conductors)**
		+ The Advanced Orchestra and Advanced Band classes are scheduled in separate rooms during the same period.
		+ Each ensemble works on their music separately during the regular scheduled classes.
		+ The two groups combine once a week for Symphony Orchestra.
	* **The Symphony Orchestra Class (Orchestra and Band Director are Co-Conductors)**
		+ The Symphony Orchestra meets as a class daily.
		+ The Symphony Orchestra may be offered in addition to the String Orchestra and Band Classes.
	* **Professional/ College Winds/Brass and Percussion Model. (Orchestra Director is the only Conductor).**
		+ The Orchestra Boosters Hire Wind/Brass and Percussion Players.
		+ The Orchestra Director rehearses the winds alone for 1-2 rehearsals.
		+ The strings combine with the winds for a dress rehearsal and concert.
		+ Pay $100 per player. Average cost is: $2,100 per concert.
4. **Understanding The Symphony Orchestra**
	* Develop a **STRONG** relationship with you Band Directors.
		+ Ask a lot about Wind Technique. DON’T EVER FAKE IT!!!!!!
		+ Observe band rehearsals.
		+ Learn the Wind Vocabulary.
		+ Model The String Techniques and Vocabulary.
	* Know the sections of the Symphony Orchestra and understand each section’s role in the ensemble.
	* **KNOW YOUR REPERTOIRE WELL BEFORE THE FIRST REHEARSAL!**

**Resources for The Symphony Orchestra**

**Comfortable Keys (In Order)**

C, F, Bb, G, D, Eb, A

**The Orchestral Winds/Brass and Percussion (Standard Classical Orchestra)**

Piccolo C Sounds an Octave Higher

2 Flutes C

2 Clarinets Bb Sounds a Major 2nd Lower

2Oboes C

2 Bassoons C

4 French Horns F Sounds a Perfect Fifth Lower

3 Trumpets Bb Sounds a Major 2nd Lower

3 Trombones C

Tuba C

Timpani

3 Percussion (Cymbals, Snare Drum, and Bass Drum)

**Additional Instruments**

English Horn F Sounds a perfect fifth Lower

Clarinet in A A Sounds a Minor 3rd Lower

French Horn in Eb Eb Sounds a Major sixth Lower

Trumpet in D D Sounds a Major 2nd Higher

Alto Saxophone Eb Sounds a Major Sixth Lower (Double Clarinet)

Tenor Saxophone Bb Sounds a Major 9th Lower (Double French Horn)

Baritone Saxophone Sounds an Octave + a Major sixth Lower (Double Bassoon)

**Resource Books**

Daniels, David. *Orchestral Music: A Handbook.* Lanham, MD: Scarecrow, 2005. Print.

Litrell, David Ault. *Teaching Music Through Performance In Orchestra.* Vol 1-3. Chicago: GIA Publications, 2001. 2003, 2008. Print

Meier, Gustav. *The Score, The Orchestra, and The Conductor.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2009. Print.

**Handout**

Colnot, Cliff. *Principles For Wind Players*