

PREPARING YOUR ENSEMBLE FOR EXPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE

Robert Sheldon

Composer/Conductor/Clinician/Concert Band Editor

Alfred Publishing Company

www.robertsheldonmusic.com

1) *Expression is the key!*

- ♪ Tension and Release
- ♪ Pacing
- ♪ Color
- ♪ Vibrato
- ♪ Dynamics
- ♪ Cause and Effect
- ♪ Tone and Presence

2) **Music Selection**

- ♪ Most important element of programming
- ♪ Expressive statement you want to make
- ♪ Difficulty level
- ♪ Concepts you want to teach
- ♪ Craftsmanship
- ♪ Selection process

3) LEARNING PACKETS

- ♪ Sequential teaching
- ♪ Booklet for each student
 - ♪ *Information on the piece and composer*
 - ♪ *Musical elements such as rhythms, melodies, form, terminology, articulations, scales/keys, phrasing*
 - ♪ *Student Conducting*
 - ♪ *Student Composing*
 - ♪ *The actual piece of music is the final page*

4) **Rehearsal Planning**

- ♪ Six-week cycle
- ♪ Time allowed for sight-reading, conducting, arranging, theory, sight-singing
- ♪ Rehearsal Schedule
 - ♪ *Detailed planning of pieces and measures covered each day*
 - ♪ *Other important information such as performances, sign-ups, registrations, challenges, fund raising, activities, etc.*
 - ♪ *Great for homework guide and lesson plans*
 - ♪ *Percussionists appreciate equipment information for set-up*
- ♪ Three weeks for fundamentals and technique
- ♪ Three more weeks for cleaning and expression
- ♪ Be sure to allow time for having some fun!

5) **Cleaning the Music**

- ♪ Divide and Conquer
- ♪ Balance and Phrasing
- ♪ Fix it NOW
- ♪ Great recordings for students

6) **ASSESSMENT**

- ♪ Evaluate continuously
- ♪ Record rehearsals
 - ♪ *Make a list of things to fix*
 - ♪ *This is your lesson plan for tomorrow!*
- ♪ If it is seen in the score you MUST hear it clearly
- ♪ Get off the podium to walk around group – watch and listen
- ♪ Video tape group and study YOUR gestures
- ♪ Compare interpretations
- ♪ BECOME the music!



Sponsored by Alfred Publishing Company