

How to Use Your March as an Educational Tool

By: Greg Rose

Tips on how to choose a march for your group:

1. Examine ranges, especially for 1st clarinet, 1st cornet, and euphonium
2. Be sure your group and the sections within the group can articulate and technically handle parts at the appropriate tempo for the march
3. Look for marches that feature or flatter your strengths-but be careful because often featuring strengths can result in also exposing weaknesses
4. Expose the group to different types of marches, i.e. American, English, German, Spanish, etc.

List of appropriate marches for this type of group:

Gladiators Farewell Blankenburg

Glory of the Yankee Navy Sousa

The Vedette Alford, Lola Flores Tucci

Little English Girl Delle Cese

In Storm and Sunshine Heed

Symphonic Concert March Bonelli

Washington Grays Grafulla

Florentiner Fucik

Solid Men to the Front Sousa

Our Glorious Emblem DeLuca

Eagle Squadron Alford

The Circus Bee Fillmore

The Ohio Special King

Concepts to be discussed:

Rhythmical pattern accuracy

Repeated half notes/style and shaping

Repeated eighth notes/style and shaping

Quarter notes in groups/control of tempo

"Finishing" of tied notes

Dotted eighth followed by a sixteenth opposed to 6/8 quarter followed by an eighth note

Matching pitch of doubled voices and balancing

Balancing chordal sections

Tuba/Bass Drum Sound and Style-horn or trombone upbeat style

Dynamic contrasts and shaping

General spirit, mood of the selection