

The Symphony Orchestra: Keeping it Off the Endangered Species List

Midwest Clinic

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International Ballroom, Hilton Hotel, Chicago

E. Daniel Long

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Assisted by:

Allen High School Full Orchestra

David DeVoto, Director

Allen, Texas

If our art form is to survive, we must be the standard bearers, the banner carriers

It is our responsibility to pass on musical heritage

Past great composers

Perform music of today's composers

Expose students to the "classics"

Bring music to the rehearsal room

Franz Joseph Haydn—104 symphonies

Composed music for a prince (luxury not enjoyed by all composers of his time)

Experiment like a scientist

Invented symphony orchestra

Advocates/promoters of school symphony orchestra

Marshall High School Music Department, Chicago Public Schools

Important medium for teaching musicianship

Stretch students

Ideal world, orchestra would rehearse daily

Harrison High School Orchestra, Lakeland, Florida

Issues of scheduling, facilities, recruitment, before/during/after school rehearsals

Each of these topics is a session in and of itself—not enough time today

Repertoire, Repertoire, Repertoire—key to success

Must be challenging, of the highest quality, meet needs of students

Concertos—Okemos High School Orchestra, Okemos, Michigan

Music with solo spots

Effective Rehearsals

Get together with winds/percussion BEFORE large group rehearsals

Become acquainted with students

Students begin to learn style/expectations of director

Make winds/percussion players feel like a part of the orchestra

Use rehearsal time wisely

Give winds/percussion undivided attention

Mindset of wind players

Aggressive, play with confidence (like a soloist)

Project

Director with string background must add only one letter to vocabulary—L

BOW/BLOW!!

Reverse vocabulary in rehearsals

Strings—“more air”

Winds—“off the string”

Unique characteristics of instruments

Strings—delay

Winds—anticipate

Seek expertise and knowledge of band/choir colleagues

Total music department involvement

Get out of our comfort level

Must practice what we preach—be confident, aggressive/assertive

Give the downbeat and listen

Do we hear what we want to hear?

Have preconceived ideas

“EVERY REHEARSAL MUST HAVE A MUSICAL MOMENT”

Elizabeth A. H. Green

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