

ORCHESTRA IN MOTION; HOW TO ENHANCE YOUR ORCHESTRA PROGRAM WITH STROLLING STRINGS

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2021 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic
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ABOUT ME

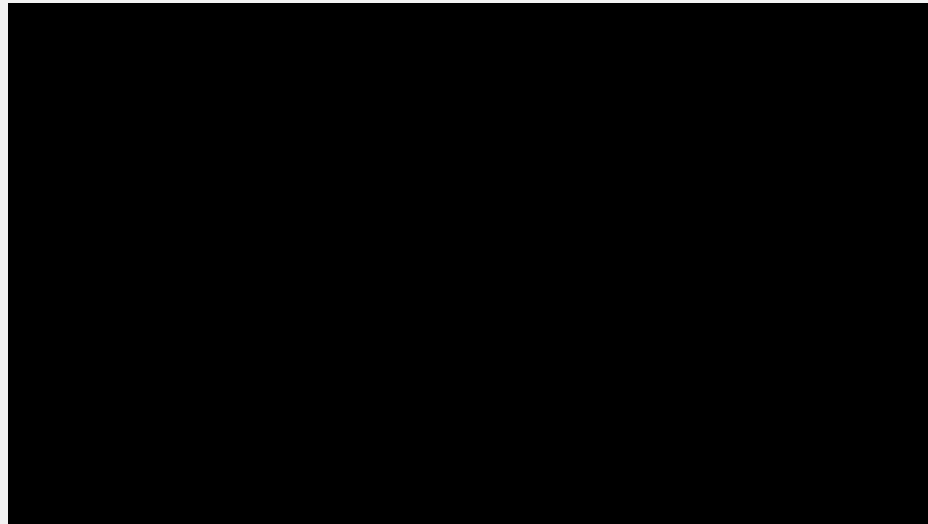


were in a performing ensemble.



Senior Anna Shellenberger entertaining as a Millionaire Strolling String.

A SAMPLE OF THE STROLLING STRINGS



WHAT ARE STROLLING STRINGS?

- Military String Groups - Air Force and Army Strings
- Rise and fall of Strolling String programs. Massive growth through the late 1980s into the late 1990s.
- Evolution of “alternative” extracurricular string groups like (rock, bluegrass, celtic, mariachi)



WHAT DOES A STROLLING PROGRAM LOOK LIKE?

- Curricular vs cocurricular vs extracurricular
- Group Size and Instrumentation
- When to rehearse? How long to rehearse?
- How and when to perform
- Repertoire



REPERTOIRE

- Set a goal for length of the show - 20min, 30 min, 40 min
- Audience driven repertoire NOT student driven.
 - Classical
 - Pop (older pop)
 - Bluegrass or folk
 - Patriotic
 - Jazz
- 75% of the music should be a full grade level lower than the ability of the group and heavy on melody. All violins on same part much of the time. This will assist with memorizing and confidence with walking, smiling, interacting, etc...
- 25% of the music can be difficult and considered a SHOW STOPPER
- Where to find music

NATIONAL ANTHEM



Bass



2021 - 2022

****This binder should be present at every rehearsal****

Songs appear in this order

Show Music

In The Mood
Crazy Little Thing Called Love
New York, New York
Carry On Wayward Son
Danny Boy/Irish Washerwoman
Dancing Queen
Appalachian Reflections
Pennsylvania Polka/Beer Barrel Polka (Polka Medley)
Devil Went Down to Georgia
Moon River
Hungarian Dance No.5
Yesterday/Eleanor Rigby
America The Beautiful

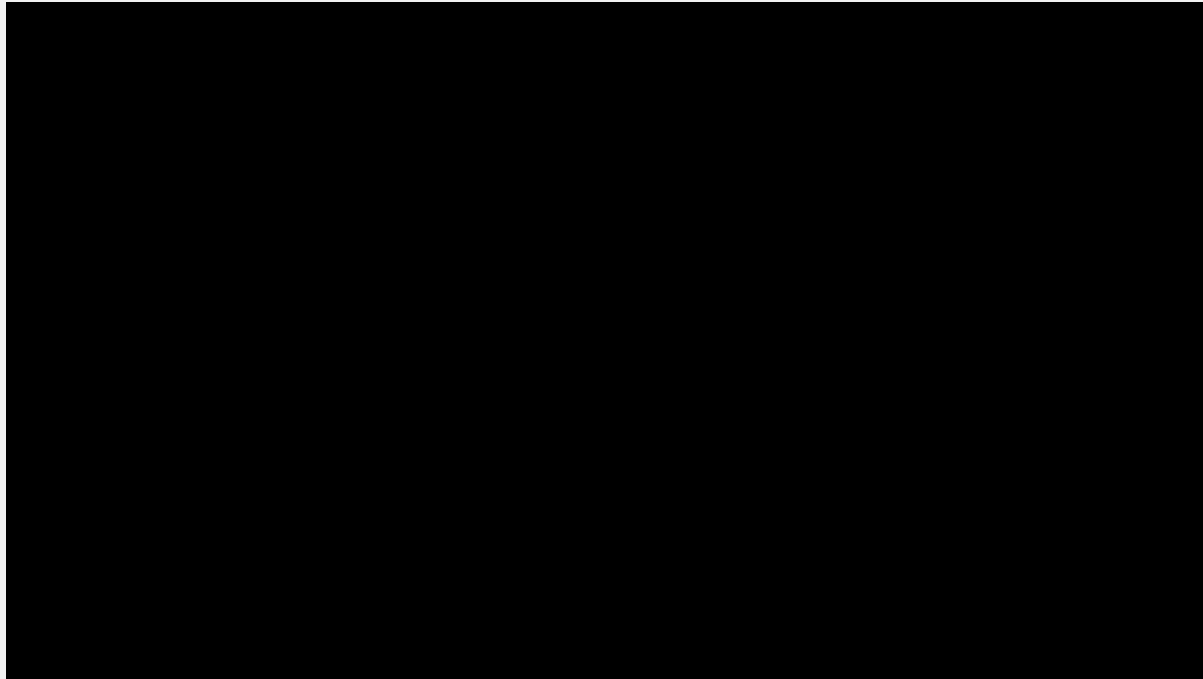
Extra Music

Orange Blossom Special (with instructions)
Star Spangled Banner
My Favorite Things
Ashokan Farewell

Christmas Music

Jingle Bells (very simple)
White Christmas
Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree
Jingle Bell Rock

VIDEO SAMPLE



REHEARSAL TECHNIQUE FOR STROLLING STRINGS

- **MUSIC COMES FIRST**; students are unable to stroll well if they do not feel confident with the music. A heavy emphasis needs to be placed on the music throughout the entire process.
- **VISUALS** can be practiced separate. Practice **EVERYTHING** from how to walk, smile, stand, posture, bow placement, etc.... This also includes uniforms, hair and make up (optional).



CELLO AND BASS HOW TO HOLD THEM WHERE TO PUT THEM



Cellos have options

- Hold it by the C peg
- Mike Block Cello Strap
- Sit

Bass Section

- Stationary
- Near piano
- Near speakers



ACCOMPANIMENT

- Traditional Groups used accordion
- School groups most often use piano
 - Director plays piano
 - Student plays piano
- Full Rhythm Section
- Prerecorded tracks – piano, rhythm section, karaoke tracks



STROLLING: CHOREOGRAPHED VS RANDOM

- Define a specific opening and closing location in each room.
- Practice in different locations
 - Cafeteria
 - Library
 - Auditorium
 - A local church
- For banquets and social events the group should be free roaming but students need to be aware of even distribution throughout the room.
 - Student leaders
 - Quartets that travel together

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- Word of mouth
- Business cards
- Social Media Posts (but be careful)
- Share Performances with other school groups
- Civic Organizations – Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions Club, etc...
- Class Reunions, work with your alumni association
- Stage Show

AT THE PERFORMANCE WHAT DOES A GIG LOOK LIKE?

- Casual vs Formal
- Definitive Drop off and pick up times for parents with clear directions so they do not interrupt the event. Sometimes NOT suitable for parents to come into the event underdressed.
- Warm up Room for tuning and cases.
- Parent Chaperone
 - 1 for local performances
 - 2 for “Bus” gigs
 - Proper Chaperone dress and expectatopns
- Announcement of Selections
 - Some student and some director

PERFORMANCE EXAMPLES



PERFORMANCE EXAMPLES



STAGE SHOW SAMPLES



CASUAL PERFORMANCES



BENEFITS OF HAVING A STROLLING GROUP

- Extra Opportunities for eager students
- A ready to go group at all times.
- Recruiting and retention
- A special way to connect with your audience
- Allows you to play fun music that you would not normally play in your curricular groups

WHAT STUDENTS LEARN FROM STROLLING

- Leadership skills
 - Section leaders
 - Communications director
 - Client representatives
- Poise and self confidence
 - Being more conscience of your body language
 - Adapting to new social situations
- How to interact with clients and customers
- Performance planning and details that are not present in a standard orchestra class.

TAKEAWAYS

- Start small
- Easier music heavy on melody.
- Practice the music and visuals separately
- Flexible Instrumentation
- Perfect way to help support your curricular program

MY CONTACT

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