

SCORE PREPARATION IS LIKE PLANNING A FAMILY VACATION

How to evaluate, plan, rehearse, and perform for maximum impact

Colonel Don Schofield

What I want you to take away

Key points for the presentation

Score preparation

- Process for selecting literature
- Evaluating risk
- Commitment to the path

Conducting Technique

- Rehearsal Conducting
- Performance Conducting

Developing an Interpretation

- Process for informed creativity
- Courage

Extra Thoughts

- Clarity
- Consistence
- Grace with yourself

An AWESOME family vacation!

- What made it so memorable?
- What were the obstacles?
- What was the risk/reward?



Pick an Appropriate Destination

The first step is critical

Family Trip:

Pick a location that meets the needs of what you want to accomplish

Music Education:

Pick the right music for the right reasons

Reflective:

What are you trying to achieve with your target audience?

Understand Barriers to Success

Know the problems before you start

Family Trip:

Know your route and destination

Music Education:

Know the music on all creative and technical levels

Reflective:

Honestly weight the cost/benefit after you do all of your research

Make This Something That They Will Remember

Is the risk worth the reward?

Family Trip:

Make this a special journey

Music Education:

Make your interpretation and rehearsal plan your own

Reflective:

Don't shy away from risk if you believe that the journey is worth taking

2 Types of Conducting

Completely different skill sets

Rehearsal Conducting:

- Reactive
- Diagnostic and repairing problems
- Reacting to the needs of the ensemble

Performance Conducting:

- Proactive
- Preparing the ensemble for what is about to happen
- Not to listen for mistakes, problems, or formulating plan to repair

Most conductors stay in rehearsal mode, even in performance

Consider using 2 separate scores

Have different rehearsal and performance scores

Rehearsal Score:

- Schematic diagram of the musical mechanics
- Choose a method that works for you
- Identifies form, dynamics, entrances, problem areas
- Like Bullet Journaling, the act of writing may increase comprehension and retention

Performance Score:

- Remain engaged with players
- Uncluttered and easy to read
- Quick reminder
- Limited distractions

Schofield rehearsal score example

- Harmonic analysis
- Themes in different colors
- Dynamics marked
- Articulations marked
- Motive length
- Rhythmic momentum

Benefits:

- You know what is right
- Can quickly diagnose errors

2 SLURRED 1 Articulated 2 more rhythmic Activity

Stringendo poco a poco

Picc. 1 *mp* *crac. poco a poco*

Fla. 1 *mp* *crac. poco a poco*

Oboe. 1 *mp* *crac. poco a poco*

E♭ Cl. 1 *mp* *crac. poco a poco*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mp* *crac. poco a poco*

E♭ Alto Cl. 1 *mp* *crac. poco a poco*

B♭ Bass Cl. 1 *mp* *crac. poco a poco*

Bsns. 1 *mp* *crac. poco a poco*

E♭ A Sax. 1 *mp* *crac. poco a poco*

E♭ Ten. Sax. 1 *mp* *crac. poco a poco*

E♭ Bar. Sax. 1 *mp* *crac. poco a poco*

Stringendo poco a poco

B♭ Cors. 1 *mp* *crac. poco a poco*

Horn in F 1 *mp* *crac. poco a poco*

Trbn. 1 *mp* *crac. poco a poco*

Euph. 1 *mp* *crac. poco a poco*

Basses 1 *mp* *crac. poco a poco*

Temp. 1 *mp* *crac. poco a poco*

Perc. 1 *mp* *crac. poco a poco*

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E♭₉ C₇ F₇ E_{bm}
G_b B_b A_b

A_b C_b F_m G_m G_m F₇ G_m
G_b G_b G_b

G_m F₇
G_m F₇

Elegy for a Young American

Schofield performance score example

- Phrase or motive length
- Generalized entrances
- Generalized style
- Generalized function

Benefits:

- Enables quick reminders
- Allows engagement
- Promotes trust

WWD CANON
BRASS CHORALE

Stringendo poco a poco

1 2 1 2

Picc. 1 2
Fla. 1 2
Obs. 1 2
E♭ Cl. 1 2
B♭ Cl. 1 2
E♭ Alto Cl. 1 2
B♭ Bass Cl. 1 2
Bona. 1 2
E♭ A. Sax. 1 2
B♭ Ten. Sax. 1 2
B♭ Bar. Sax. 1 2

B♭ Cors. 1 2 3
Hrn. in F 1 2 3 4
Trbn. 1 2 3
Euph. 1 2
Bassoon 1 2
Timp. 1 2
Perc. 1 2

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Steps I use When Developing an Interpretation

You can't rush the process of understanding

1. Pick appropriate music
2. Develop 30,000 foot view of the music
3. Begin to understand the mechanics of it's musical momentum
4. Begin to understand the journey the music creates for the listener
5. Begin to understand the challenges the music may require
6. Start to develop you own individual opinion and interpretation
7. Strive for the capacity to both rehearsal conduct and performance conduct

Extra Thoughts

Growth is continuous

- Strive for clear communication in words and conducting pattern
- OK to use recordings to learn, but don't simply emulate the interpretation
- Keep instruction from the podium as actionable concepts
- Your interpretation will evolve over time
- Give yourself grace

Questions?