

SYMPHONIC SOUNDS

Creating, Rehearsing, and Performing with a Symphony Orchestra



JIM PALMER

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

4:30 PM • Room W184



The Midwest Clinic
International Band and Orchestra Conference



Alfred Music

Symphonic Sounds: Creating, Rehearsing and Performing with A Symphony Orchestra
Presented By: Jim Palmer
Orchestra Director, Allatoona High School Orchestra, Acworth, Georgia
Music Director, Youth Orchestra of Greater Columbus, Columbus, Georgia
Arranger, String Editor and Clinician, Alfred Music

James.palmer1966@gmail.com

Achieving a blended orchestral sound in the Symphony Orchestra requires techniques that are specific to Woodwinds, Brass, Strings and Percussion.

I. Understanding The Symphony Orchestra

- Develop **STRONG** relationships among the Band and Orchestra Directors.
 - Ask a lot about Wind/String Technique. **DON'T EVER FAKE IT!!!!!!**
 - Observe band/string orchestra rehearsals.
 - Learn the Wind/String orchestra Vocabulary.
 - Model The String Techniques and Vocabulary.
- Know the sections of the Symphony Orchestra and understand each section's role in the ensemble.
- **KNOW YOUR REPERTOIRE WELL BEFORE THE FIRST REHEARSAL**

II. Balance, Blend and Articulation

- **Brass**
 - “Da, Doh, Ta and Toh” articulation to the Vowel.
 - Warm, Dark Sound.
 - Power is in **INTONATION**, not Volume.
 - Balance to The French Horn and Timpani
- **Woodwinds**
 - “Ta, Tee and Too” articulation to the Vowel.
 - Soloistic Sound.
 - Project through the Strings.
 - Balance to the Bassoon.
- **Strings**
 - Projected warm sound.
 - Listen to Woodwind and Brass Line.
 - Achieve more Dynamic Contrast with Bow Speed and Bow Placement.
- **Percussion**
 - Auxiliary Percussion- Balance with Brass Less Forte than Band.
 - Mallet Percussion - Projected sound MF or Higher.
 - Timpani – Balance to the Brass.
 - **PHASING!!**

III. Warm Up and Chorales

- Family Warm Up.
- Balance between families.
- Using Chorales to address quality of Sound, Blend and Phrasing.

IV. Repertoire

- *Cadence Everlasting* **B Rossano Galante**
- *Themes from March Slav* **By Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Arr. Chris M. Bernotas (ASCAP)**
- *Nabucco Overture* **By Giuseppe Verdi**
- *Symphony No. 9* **By Antonin Dvorak**
 - *Movement IV*

Resources and Handouts

- Four Common Issues with Full Orchestra, Peter Boonshaft
- Principles of Orchestral Wind Playing Handout, Cliff Colnot
- Principles of Orchestral String Playing Handout, Cliff Colnot
- Transposition Cheat Sheet, Jim Palmer
- Palmer's Top 100 Full Orchestra Pieces, Jim Palmer

Resource Books

- Phillips, Bob Ault. *Sound Orchestra Ensemble Development String or Full Orchestra*. Van Nuys: Alfred Music, 2022.
- Goldie, Sandie. *Rehearsing The Full Orchestra*. Chicago: GIA Publications, 2023. Print
- Litrell, David Ault. *Teaching Music Through Performance In Orchestra*. Vol 1-3. Chicago: GIA Publications, 2001. 2003, 2008. Print
- Meier, Gustav. *The Score, The Orchestra, and The Conductor*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009. Print.

This image shows a page from a musical score, likely for a symphony orchestra. The score is written in 4/4 time and includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The instruments listed on the left side of the page are:

- Scale
- Fl.
- Ob.
- Cl.
- B. Cl.
- Bsn.
- A. Sax. (Opt.)
- T. Sax. (Opt.)
- B. Sax. (Opt.)
- F. Hn.
- Tpt.
- Trb.
- Tuba
- Mlts.
- Timp.
- Perc.
- Vlns. I
- Vlns. II
- Viola
- Cello
- Str. Bass
- Pno. (Opt.)

The score is written in a standard musical notation with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 4/4. The page number 1 is visible at the bottom left corner.

CHORALE: BWV 400

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Arranged by Bob Phillips (ASCAP)

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.
(Opt.)

T. Sax.
(Opt.)

B. Sax.
(Opt.)

F. Hn.

Tpt.

Trb.

Tuba

Mlts.

Timp.

Perc.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Viola

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.
(Opt.)

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

F. Hn.

Tpt.

Trb.

Tuba

Mlts.

Timp.

Perc.

I

Vlns.

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.

10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

Commissioned by and dedicated to the Duxbury High School Music Department
Directors, Jill Noerenberg, Robert Judge, Nick Tatarka

FULL SCORE
Duration - 4:20

Cadence Everlasting

By Rossano Galante (BMI)

Calmly ♩ = 64

For Ric Madru

Flutes

Oboe

B♭ Clarinets

B♭ Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

F Horns

B♭ Trumpets

Trombones

Tuba

Bells

Timpani

Percussion 1
(Suspended Cymbal)

Percussion 2
(Triangle)

Violins

Viola

Cello

String Bass

Calmly ♩ = 64



8

10

Fls. 1 *p*

Fls. 2 *p*

Ob. *p*

Cls. 1 *mf*

Cls. 2 *mp*

B. Cl. *p*

Bsn. *p*

Hns. 1 *p*

Hns. 2 *pp*

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2

Tbns. 1

Tbns. 2

Tuba

Bells

Timp. (w/soft mallets) *mp*

Perc. 1 *p*

Perc. 2 *mp*

10

Vlns. I *p*

Vlns. II *p*

Vla. *p*

Cello *pizz.*

Str. Bass *pizz.*

9 10 11 12

49891S

16

Fls. 1 2

Ob.

Cls. 1 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hns. 1 2

Tpts. 1 2

Tbns. 1 2

Tuba

Bells

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vlins. I II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

24

49891S

25 26 27 28

10

Fls.

Ob.

Cls.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hns.

Tpts.

Tbns.

Tuba

Bells

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

49891S

29

30

31

32

169

SCALE PATTERN—All notes should be played with consistent and unified articulations and dynamics. For more detailed information, please see the exercise descriptions at the beginning of the book.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. (Opt.)

T. Sax. (Opt.)

B. Sax. (Opt.)

F. Hn.

Tpt.

Trb.

Tuba

Mlts.

Timp. Tune: F, Bb, Eb

Perc. S.D. B.D. (4)

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Viola

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. (Opt.)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

F Hn.

Tpt.

Trb.

Tuba

Mits.

Timp.

Perc.

I

Vins.

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

(4)

4

4

4

4

x1

x1

1

175

ARTICULATION—This exercise focuses on unifying the ensemble as diverse and various techniques of bowing for strings and tonguing for winds are used to achieve a cohesive sound. For more detailed information, please see the exercise descriptions at the beginning of the book.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. (Opt.)

T. Sax. (Opt.)

B. Sax. (Opt.)

F. Hn.

Tpt.

Trb.

Tuba

Mlts.

Timp. Tune: B♭

Perc. S.D. B.D.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Viola

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. (Opt.)

1 2 3 4

176

PHRASING AND ARTICULATION—This exercise focuses on the subtleties of musical releases, phrase lengths, contour of line, and shaping of phrases in various contexts. For more detailed information, please see the exercise descriptions at the beginning of the book.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.
(Opt.)

T. Sax.
(Opt.)

B. Sax.
(Opt.)

F Hn.

Tpt.

Trb.

Tuba

Mlt.

Timp.
Tune: Bb, Eb, F

Perc.
Tamb.
B.D.

Vins.
I

Vins.
II

Viola

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.
(Opt.)

1 2 3 4 5 6

Themes from

FULL SCORE
Duration - 3:00

By Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Arranged by Chris M. Bernotas (ASCAP)

Moderato (♩ = 96)

Flute

Oboe

B♭ Clarinets

B♭ Bass Clarinet (Optional)

Bassoon

E♭ Alto Saxophone (Optional)

F Horn

B♭ Trumpets

Trombone

Tuba

Orchestra Bells

Timpani

Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum)

Percussion 2 (Crash Cymbals)

Moderato (♩ = 96)

Violins

Viola

Cello

String Bass

5

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mp*

1 *mf*

2 *mp*

Cls.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

Hn.

1

Tpts.

2

Tbn.

Tuba

Bells

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

5

I *mf*

II *mf*

Vla. *mp*

Cello

Str. Bass

15

232

PHRASING AND ARTICULATION—This exercise focuses on the subtleties of musical releases, phrase lengths, contour of line, and shaping of phrases in various contexts. For more detailed information, please see the exercise descriptions at the beginning of the book.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. (Opt.)

T. Sax. (Opt.)

B. Sax. (Opt.)

F. Hn.

Tpt.

Trb.

Tuba

Mils.

Timp.

Perc.

I

Vins.

II

Viola

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. (Opt.)

1

2

3

4

This page contains the musical score for measures 5 through 8 of a piece. The score is written for a large ensemble, including woodwinds, brass, strings, and percussion. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is organized into systems, with measures 5, 6, 7, and 8 marked at the bottom of each system. The instruments listed on the left are: Fl., Ob., Cl., B. Cl., Bsn., A. Sax., T. Sax., B. Sax., F. Hn., Tpt., Trb., Tuba, Mlts., Timp., Perc., Vlns. I & II, Vla., Cello, Str. Bass, and Pno. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, beams, and dynamic markings like 'nb' (no breath) and 'x4' (four times). The percussion part includes a snare drum and a cymbal. The string parts include violins, viola, cello, and double bass. The piano part is written in grand staff notation.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

F. Hn.

Tpt.

Trb.

Tuba

Mlts.

Timp.

Perc.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.

5

6

7

8

NABUCCO

1

Overture

GIUSEPPE VERDI

Edited by Nancy M. Bradburd
and Clinton F. Nieweg

Andante

1
Flute

2 (Piccolo)

Oboe 1-2

Clarinet 1-2 in A

Bassoon 1-2

1-2
Horn in D

3-4

Trumpet 1-2 in D

Trombone 1-2

Trombone 3
Tuba *

Timpani

Snare Drum

Cymbals
Bass Drum

Andante

1
Violin

2

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

* Originally Cimballo

A 2206

12

13

Fl. 1

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

1-2

Hn.

3-4

Tpt.

Tbn. 1-2

Tbn. 3
Tuba

Timp.

S.D.

Cym.
B.D.

13

1

Vn.

2

Va.

Vc.

D.B.

18

Fl. 1

Picc.

Ob. 1. *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

Cl. 1. *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

Bsn. *cresc. poco a poco*

1-2 Hn. *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

3-4 Hn. *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

Tpt. *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

Tbn. 1-2

Tbn. 3 Tuba

Timp.

S.D.

Cym.

B.D.

1 Vn. *cresc. poco a poco*

2 Vn. *cresc. poco a poco*

Va. *cresc. poco a poco*

Vc. *cresc. poco a poco*

D.B. *cresc. poco a poco*

24

Allegro

Fl. 1

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn. ^{1.} *p*

1-2 ^{1.} *p*

Hn. ^{3.} *p*

3-4 ^{2.} *p*

Tpt. ^{1.} *p*

Tbn. 1-2 ^{1.} *p*

Tbn. 3 *Tuba* *p*

Timp.

S.D. *p*

Cym.

B.D.

24

Allegro

1 *p*

Vn. *p*

2 *p*

Va. *p*

Vc. *p*

D.B. *p*

A 2206

35

Fl. 1

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

1-2

Hn.

3-4

Tpt.

Tbn. 1-2

Tbn. 3
Tuba

Timp.

S.D.

Cym.
B.D.

1

Vn.

2

Va.

Vc.

D.B.

41

[illegible]

51 **Andante come prima** **Andantino** 55

1 Fl. 2 Ob. Cl. Bsn.

1-2 Hn. 3-4 Tpt. Tbn. 1-2 Tbn. 3 Tuba Timp. S.D. Cym. B.D.

1 Vn. 2 Va. Vc. D.B.

p *a 2* *a 2* *pizz.* *p* *pizz.* *p* *pizz.* *p* *pizz.* *p* *pizz.* *p*

p con espress. *1.* *p con espress.* *1.*

57

1
Fl.

2

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

1-2
Hn.

3-4

Tpt.

Tbn. 1-2

Tbn. 3
Tuba

Timp.

S.D.

Cym.

B.D.

1
Vn.

2

Va.

Vc.

D.B.

IV.

Allegro con fuoco. M.M. ♩ = 152.

Flauti.

Obol.

Clarineti in A.

Fagotti.

Corni I. II. in E.

Corni III. IV. in E.

Trombe in E.

Tromboni I. II.

Trombone basso.

Tympani E.H.
(Piatti.)

Allegro con fuoco. M.M. ♩ = 152.

Violino I. *ff*

Violino II. *ff*

Viola. *ff*

Violoncello. *ff*

Contrabbasso. *ff*

This page of musical notation, page 55, contains three systems of staves. Each system consists of a grand staff (treble and bass clef) and a single treble staff. The music is written in 2/4 time and includes various dynamic markings such as *f*, *ff*, and *sf*. The notation includes notes, rests, and articulation marks. The first system has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature of 2/4. The second system has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature of 2/4. The third system has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature of 2/4. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and articulation marks.

This page of musical notation, numbered 56, presents a complex piano score. It is organized into two systems. The first system, spanning the top half of the page, contains ten staves. The first four staves are for the grand piano (treble and bass clefs), while the remaining six staves are for other instruments, likely woodwinds or strings, as indicated by their key signatures and clefs. The notation is dense, featuring many sixteenth and thirty-second notes, often grouped in triplets. Dynamic markings such as *ff* (fortissimo) are prominent throughout. The second system, located in the bottom half of the page, continues the composition. It also consists of ten staves, with the first four staves showing a significant change in texture, possibly indicating a different instrument or a change in the piano's role. The notation remains complex, with many slurs and dynamic markings. The page concludes with a final cadence on the last staff.



First system of musical notation, featuring multiple staves with various musical notes, rests, and dynamic markings such as *fz* and *ff*. The system includes vocal lines and piano accompaniment.



Second system of musical notation, continuing the composition with complex rhythmic patterns and dynamic markings like *fz* and *ff*. The system includes vocal lines and piano accompaniment.

This page of musical notation, numbered 58, contains two systems of staves. The notation is complex, featuring numerous triplets, sixteenth notes, and dynamic markings such as *f* (forte) and *ff* (fortissimo). The first system includes a section marked *a 2.* and a section marked *ff*. The second system also includes a section marked *a 2.* and a section marked *f*. The notation is written in a style typical of 19th-century musical manuscripts, with a focus on intricate rhythmic patterns and dynamic contrast.

This is a page of a musical score, likely for a symphony, featuring multiple staves with complex notation. The score includes various musical elements such as triplets, dynamic markings (f, mf, dim, pp), and performance instructions like "Solo" and "Piauti Solo". The notation is dense, with many notes and rests, and the page is numbered "59" in the top right corner. The score is written in a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 2/4 time signature. The first system of staves shows a complex arrangement of notes and rests, with dynamic markings like "f" and "mf" indicating volume changes. The second system continues the musical development, with a "Solo" instruction for a specific instrument. The third system features a "Piauti Solo" instruction, followed by a section marked "Tympani in D. G.". The notation includes many triplets and slurs, suggesting a fast and intricate piece of music. The page is well-organized, with clear staves and legible markings, making it a valuable resource for musicians and musicologists.

First system of a musical score, measures 1-8. The score is written for a string quartet (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello/Double Bass) and a piano. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The first system includes dynamic markings *p* (piano) and *dim.* (diminuendo). The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and sixteenth notes.

Second system of a musical score, measures 9-16. The score continues for the string quartet and piano. The key signature remains one sharp. The first system includes dynamic markings *p* (piano) and *fz* (forzando). The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and sixteenth notes.

Third system of a musical score, measures 17-24. The score continues for the string quartet and piano. The key signature remains one sharp. The first system includes dynamic markings *molto crescendo*, *cresc.* (crescendo), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *f* (forte). The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and sixteenth notes.

from "Boonshaft's Blog"

KHS America/Jupiter Band Instruments

Peter Loel Boonshaft, Director of Education

All rights reserved. Used with permission.

"Four Common Issues with Full Orchestra"

Every band director is aware of the usual concerns when refining a wind band performance. Likewise, every string teacher is familiar with the stumbling blocks of producing a polished performance for their string orchestra. Often though, issues arise when we work toward performances with a full orchestra. Band specialists are sometimes less familiar with string pedagogy and rehearsal needs, while string specialists are sometimes less versed in the issues of rehearsing and performing with winds and percussion. And though we can all agree that the sound of a full orchestra can be absolutely gorgeous, the above-stated problem can result in concerts with often-heard inconsistencies. Here are four of those issues that are inherent problems when combining winds and percussion, with strings.

Articulation/Bowing

When one thinks of brass and woodwind articulation markings, it becomes relatively obvious that there is often a lack of clarity and specificity when compared to bowing/articulation markings for string players. Often, markings that clearly and emphatically mean something to string players are much more nuanced or ambiguous to wind players. Take, for example, four staccato quarter notes under the arc of a phrase or slur marking. To a string player, the meaning and technique of achieving that sound is crystal clear. To a wind player, it is hazy at best. When wind and string forces play together, it is essential that this discrepancy is overcome by listening to, and unifying, the "sound" of the articulation/bowing, and compensating for those differences, irrespective of how that sound is technically or mechanically achieved.

Key Centers

One of the most glaring worries for full orchestra is the key in which the ensemble is playing. Simply put, band students are clearly more comfortable in flat keys, while string students are more comfortable in sharp keys. While that is certainly a stereotype, it is no less true. When adjudicating full orchestras, I often hear how very able the strings are as they navigate sharp keys with beautiful intonation, and how inaccurate they are when playing in flat keys. And vice versa for the winds. To help with this, try having the full orchestra slowly play unison scales in sharp and flat keys, with a tonic drone, truly concentrating on stabilizing and focusing the intonation of each pitch. I have also found that one of the best ways to remedy this problem is to have the full orchestra practice playing a chorale in a sharp key. Then, have them play the same chorale that you have transposed to a flat key. Identifying and focusing on this common

problem will certainly improve performances irrespective of the key in which the orchestra is playing.

How They Produce Sound

Put simply, wind players need to breathe and string players don't! When full orchestra music is written with overlapping, layered, or disjunct phrases, this is not a worry. But when a piece calls for long passages of lush, continuous, uninterrupted tutti playing, this common problem is obvious and creates a noticeable deficiency in the success of the performance. So often, in a work like that for full orchestra one hears the strings play with a rich, constant, seamless sound, only to hear the winds putting spaces in that same passage so they can breathe. This issue is just as noticeable with smaller forces, such as when a unison line is played by one string part and one wind part, for example, the violins and the flutes. That lack of unity is glaring and detracts from a cohesive performance. Since rarely do full orchestras have the forces for the winds to stagger breathe, we are usually left with having the string players end their phrases to match those of the winds. However we decide to solve this dilemma, remedying this concern makes all the difference in the quality of the orchestra's performance.

Volume/Balance

When we rehearse a string orchestra, we address overall ensemble balance, as well as section balance. Likewise, when rehearsing a concert band, we attend to overall ensemble, family, and section balances. When it comes to full orchestra, we certainly need to do the same. However, beyond that, two common problems regarding volume and balance arise simply by nature of how we constitute the ensemble. When the traditional forces of a modest-sized wind and percussion section are employed with a large robust string section, the problem is that often the winds are not heard well and need to project more. But when that same wind and percussion section is playing with a modestly-small string section, the strings are often drowned out, necessitating the winds and percussion to play softer. All of that must be accomplished, while of course maintaining good balance. Very often, this problem is compounded and exacerbated when orchestras use doubled – or even more – winds in an effort to allow as many students as possible the opportunity of playing in the ensemble. As well, percussion in any scenario must maintain that perfect balance – pun intended – of knowing when to be in the foreground and when to be in the background.

Some Principles for Winds and Brass to Observe in Orchestra Playing

Nourish the sound from beginning to end. Do not play some notes with vibrato and some without when continuity of expression must be maintained. Of particular importance are the first and last notes of a phrase, regardless of their value. Also, big leaps up and down often suffer from no vibrato which interrupts the line.

Don't play the part in isolation. Determine who has thematic material (most important in the hierarchy) and who has accompaniment. Listen to motor rhythms, repeated note values that constitute a metronome other parts must fit with. Listen for other instruments that are playing the same music and fit with them.

Remember that dynamics are relative. Adjust dynamics up or down one dynamic level depending on the relative importance of the part. Exaggerate dynamic contrasts so that the composition is not performed in varying shades of *mezzo-forte*.

Look ahead, memorize, and look up. Buffer upcoming measures in your memory and look up for visual cues. When there is a structural turn or "corner" in the music, especially when accompanied by a *ritard* or an *accelerando*, watch the conductor. Semi-memorize passages when practicing in preparation for rehearsal, looking at the music briefly, then looking away and playing.

Learn to play *legato*. In Italian, *legato* means BOUND TOGETHER. When playing *legato* there should be NO *diminuendo* right before one changes valves or keys to move to the next note. The volume at the very end of one note should be identical to the beginning of the next note REGARDLESS OF THE NOTE VALUES.

Further, there should be no accent on the new note. It is particularly difficult to play *legato* when there are large leaps up or down. (It helps to precede each large intervallic leap with a small *crescendo*.) And when playing a real *legato*, one should feel very physically engaged.

Project your musical ideas into the audience. The inability to project the sound past your own chair is one of the most challenging problems for wind and brass players. Playing slightly softer but *LEGATO* helps a great deal. And in most repertoire, brass players should go fairly quickly from the consonant to a SUSTAINED vowel. Loading up on the consonant (i.e. the front of the sound) provides a temporary surge of volume, but does not result in a truly projected sound. Finally, remember that the dynamic of your part must be adjusted based on its musical function. If you have the main voice and it is marked *piano*, you must make the adjustment and play louder (and *vice versa*).

Know what note of the chord you are playing at all times, and whether you are in prime unison, unison octaves, two-part harmony, etc. When the winds and brass are playing without a substantial string accompaniment, major thirds and dominant sevenths should be played lower in pitch to achieve consonant overtones and better intonation. Whenever you have a lower octave, play at least one dynamic louder. (This helps the balance and the pitch of the upper octave.) If you are not the main voice and are in prime unison, playing with a little *vibrato* or no *vibrato* is often a good strategy.

ALWAYS LOOK FOR THE PHRASE AND THE POETRY.

Some Principles for String Players to Observe in Orchestra Playing

By: Cliff Colnot

Plan the use of the bow to accomplish what must be done musically. Do not indiscriminately and automatically use a full bow on every note. Do not *crescendo* on every up-bow or accent on every down-bow. Do not let changes of bow create changes in the original articulation. Be aware of the balance between bow pressure and bow speed. When moving toward the tip, increase the bow pressure to sustain the sound. Keep the bow moving through rests; do not choke off the sound with sudden stops.

To create a sustained musical line, begin one tone where the last leaves off. Just as wind players must be sure to sustain the sound through a *legato* phrase, string players must not let a change of bow disrupt the melodic line by suddenly playing louder or softer. String players need to be sure to play the last note in a *diminuendo* softer than the preceding one when there is a change of bow. Do not accent the last note of passages that continue in other sections; pass the line from one section or instrument to another. Do not land heavily on the last note of cadences.

Nourish the sound from beginning to end. Start *vibrato* before moving the bow and continue to vibrate after the bow leaves the string. Do not play some notes with *vibrato* and some without when continuity of expression must be maintained. Practice transferring *vibrato* so that it does not stop for finger changes, shifts, and string crossings.

Don't play the part in isolation. Determine who has thematic material (most important in the hierarchy) and who has accompaniment. Listen to motor rhythms, repeated note values that constitute a metronome other parts must fit with. Listen for other instruments that are playing the same music and fit with them.

Don't be a soloist competing to be heard. Focused sounds that project are fine when one must be heard as an individual, but fuzzy, airy, less focused sounds blend more effectively collectively. In soft passages, the player who can hear his or her own sound is playing too loud.

Remember that dynamics are relative. Adjust dynamics up or down one dynamic level depending on the relative importance of the part. Exaggerate dynamic contrasts so that the composition is not performed in varying shades of *mezzo-forte*.

Fit in harmonically. It helps to know what note of the chord one is playing in the harmony and whether one is playing in unison or octaves with other voices. PLAYING LOWER OCTAVES AT LEAST ONE DYNAMIC LOUDER HELPS THE BALANCE AND THE PITCH OF THE UPPER OCTAVES.

Look ahead, memorize, and look up. Buffer upcoming measures in your memory and look up for visual cues. When there is a structural turn or "corner" in the music, especially when accompanied by a *ritard* or an *accelerando*, watch the conductor. Watch the principal players at the front of the sections and play in the same part of the bow, with the same stroke. Semi-memorize passages when practicing in preparation for rehearsal, looking at the music briefly, then looking away and playing.

Resources for The Symphony Orchestra

Comfortable Keys (In Order)

C, F, Bb, G, D, Eb, A

The Orchestral Winds/Brass and Percussion (Standard Classical Orchestra)

Piccolo	C	Sounds an Octave Higher
2 Flutes	C	
2 Clarinets	Bb	Sounds a Major 2 nd Lower
2 Oboes	C	
2 Bassoons	C	
4 French Horns	F	Sounds a Perfect Fifth Lower
3 Trumpets	Bb	Sounds a Major 2 nd Lower
3 Trombones	C	
Tuba	C	
Timpani		
3 Percussion	(Cymbals, Snare Drum, and Bass Drum)	

Additional Instruments

English Horn	F	Sounds a perfect fifth Lower
Clarinet in A	A	Sounds a Minor 3 rd Lower
French Horn in Eb	Eb	Sounds a Major sixth Lower
Trumpet in D	D	Sounds a Major 2 nd Higher
Alto Saxophone	Eb	Sounds a Major Sixth Lower (Double Clarinet)
Tenor Saxophone	Bb	Sounds a Major 9 th Lower (Double French Horn)
Baritone Saxophone		Sounds an Octave + a Major 6 th Lower (Double Bassoon)

Series	Title	Composer / Arranger	Grade
First Philharmonic	Barcarolle (from <i>The Tales of Hoffman</i>)	By Jacques Offenbach / arr. Richard Meyer	1
First Philharmonic	Finlandia	By Jean Sibelius / arr. Richard Meyer	1
First Philharmonic	Hallelujah Chorus from <i>Messiah</i>	By George Frideric Handel / arr. Richard Meyer	1
First Philharmonic	Largo from <i>Symphony No. 9, "New World"</i>	By Antonin Dvorák / arr. Richard Meyer	1
First Philharmonic	Ode to Joy from <i>Symphony No. 9</i>	By Ludwig van Beethoven / arr. Richard Meyer	1
Beginning Full Orchestra	Sword Dance	Traditional / arr. Bob Phillips	1
First Philharmonic	Symphony No. 1, 3rd Movement	By Gustav Mahler / arr. Richard Meyer	1
First Philharmonic	The Magic Flute (Overture)	By Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart / arr. Richard Meyer	1
First Philharmonic	Trepak from <i>The Nutcracker Ballet</i>	By Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky / arr. Richard Meyer	1
Beginning Full Orchestra	A Holiday Celebration	Traditional / arr. Michael Story	1.5
Belwin	Field Day	By Chris M. Bernotas	1.5
Beginning Full Orchestra	Fanfare Rondeau	By Jean-Joseph Mouret / arr. Douglas E. Wagner	1.5
Beginning Full Orchestra	Freedom Finale	Arr. Michael Story	1.5
Beginning Full Orchestra	Gavotte	By Arcangelo Corelli / arr. Bob Phillips	1.5
Beginning Full Orchestra	Gymnopédie No. 3	By Erik Satie / arr. Bob Phillips	1.5
Beginning Full Orchestra	King William's March	By Jeremiah Clarke / arr. Bob Phillips	1.5
Beginning Full Orchestra	Rigaudon	By Henry Purcell / arr. Bob Phillips	1.5
Beginning Full Orchestra	The Prince of Denmark's March	By Jeremiah Clarke / arr. Bob Phillips	1.5
Highland First Philharmonic	"Military" Symphony	By Franz Joseph Haydn / arr. Richard Meyer	2
Highland First Philharmonic	"Surprise" Symphony	By Franz Joseph Haydn / arr. Richard Meyer	2
Highland First Philharmonic	Aragonaise from <i>Carmen</i>	By Georges Bizet / arr. Richard Meyer	2
Highland First Philharmonic	Egmont Overture	Arr. Richard Meyer	2
First Philharmonic	Hornpipe (from <i>Water Music</i>)	By George Frideric Handel / arr. Richard Meyer	2
Highland First Philharmonic	Intermezzo from <i>Carmen</i>	By Georges Bizet / arr. Richard Meyer	2
Highland First Philharmonic	La Rejouissance (from <i>Royal Fireworks Music</i>)	By George Frideric Handel / arr. Richard Meyer	2
First Philharmonic	New World Symphony (Fourth Movement)	By Antonin Dvorák / arr. Richard Meyer	2
Highland First Philharmonic	Nocturne (from <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>)	By Felix Mendelssohn / arr. Richard Meyer	2
Highland First Philharmonic	Overture to <i>Die Fledermaus</i>	By Johann Strauss / arr. Richard Meyer	2
Highland First Philharmonic	Overture to <i>Royal Fireworks Music</i>	By George Frideric Handel / arr. Richard Meyer	2
Highland First Philharmonic	Radetzky March	By Johann Strauss, Sr. / arr. Richard Meyer	2
Highland First Philharmonic	Rosamunde Overture	By Franz Schubert / arr. Richard Meyer	2
First Philharmonic	Symphony No. 1 (4th Movement)	By Johannes Brahms / arr. Richard Meyer	2
First Philharmonic	Symphony No. 4	By Johannes Brahms / arr. Richard Meyer	2
First Philharmonic	Symphony No. 5 "Reformation" (4th Movement)	By Felix Mendelssohn / arr. Richard Meyer	2
Highland First Philharmonic	The Abduction from the Seraglio	By Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart / arr. Richard Meyer	2
First Philharmonic	The Barber of Seville (Overture)	By Gioacchino Rossini / arr. Richard Meyer	2
Highland First Philharmonic	Themes from <i>Capriccio Italien</i>	By Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky / arr. Richard Meyer	2
Highland First Philharmonic	Themes from <i>Scheherazade</i>	By Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov / arr. Richard Meyer	2
First Philharmonic	Thunder and Lightning Polka	By Johann Strauss	2
Highland First Philharmonic	Capriccio Espagnol	By Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov / arr. Richard Meyer	2.5
Highland First Philharmonic	Pastoral Symphony (First Movement)	By Ludwig van Beethoven / arr. Richard Meyer	2.5
Highland First Philharmonic	Symphony No. 5	By Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky / arr. Richard Meyer	2.5
First Philharmonic	The Moldau	By Bedrich Smetana / arr. Richard Meyer	2.5
Belwin	Theme from Swan Lake	By Tchaikovsky/ arr. Chris M. Bernotas	2.5
Ludwig	Dance of the Tumblers	By Rimsky Korsakov arr Sandra Dackow	3
Belwin	Dark Adventure	By Ralph Ford	3
Ludwig	Finale Symphony No. 2 Little Russian	By Tchaikowsky arr Dackow	3
Highland Etling	Judas Maccabaeus Suite	By George Frideric Handel / arr. Isaac	3
Belwin	Nostalgia	By Rossano Galante	3
Belwin	Peer Gynt Suite No. 1 Op. 46	By Edvard Grieg/arr. Chris M. Bernotas	3
Highland Etling	Rondeau	By Mouret/ arr. Vernon Leidig	3
Highland Etling	Slavonic Dance No. 3	By Antonin Dvorák / arr. Merle Isaac	3
Belwin	The Great Locomotive Chase	By Robert W. Smith	3
Belwin	Theme from March Slav	By Tchaikovsky/ arr. Chris M. Bernotas	3
Belwin	Blue Tango	By Leroy Anderson/ arr. Chris M. Bernotas	3.5

Belwin	Cadence Everlasting	By Rossano Galante	3.5
Belwin	Genesis	By Rossano Galante	3.5
Highland Etling	Celebration	By Richard Meyer	4
Alfred	Farandole	By Georges Bizet / arr. Merle Isaac	4
Ludwig	Festique	By M L Daniels	4
Belwin	Grand March From Aida	By Verdi/ arr. Merle Isaac	4
Highland Etling	Hungarian Dance No. 4	By Johannes Brahms/ arr. Merle Isaac	4
Highland Etling	Hungarian Dance No. 5	By Johannes Brahms/ arr. Merle Isaac	4
Lucks	Intermezzo	By Mascagni	4
Highland Etling	Jupiter-Bringer of Jollity	By Gustav Holst/ arr. Vernon Leidig	4
Alfred	Millennium	By Richard Meyer	4
Highland Etling	Symphony No. 25 in g minor	By Mozart/ arr Ralph Matesky	4
Alfred	Variations on A Theme By Beethoven	By Ralph Matesky	4
FJH	Warrior Legacy	Soon Hee Newbold	4
Warner Brothers	American In Parris Suite	By George Gershwin/ arr John Whitney	5
Belwin	Berceuse and Finale from The Firebird Suite	By Stravinsky/ arr. Isaac	5
Boosey Hawkes	John Henry	By Aaron Copland	5
Ludwig	Lancaster Overture	By Paul Whear	5
Kalmus	L'Arlesienne Suite I or II (Selected Movements)	By George Bizet	5
Belwin	Music For Orchestra	By Vaclav Nelhybel	5
Highland Etling	Norwegian Dances No. 2 and 3	By Grieg/ arr Isaac	5
Any Original	Overture to HMS Pinafore	By Arthur Sullivan	5
Any Original	Overture to Pirates of Penzance	By Arthur Sullivan	5
Lucks	Procession of The Sardar	By Ippolitov-Ivanov	5
Public Domain	Rokaczy March	By Hector Berlioz	5
Ludwig	St. Lawrence Overture	By Washburn	5
Highland Etling	The Montagues and Capulets	By Prokofiev/ arr Siennicki	5
Any Original	Carmen Suites No. 1 or 2	By Bizet	6
Any Original	Egmont Overture	By Beethoven	6
Any Original	Finlandia	By Sibelius	6
Any Original	Love Duet	By Hanson	6
Any Original	March Slave	Tchaikowsky	6
Any Original	Nabucco Overture	By Verdi	6
Any Original	Overture To Nabucco	By Verdi	6
Any Original	Overture to Orpheus In the Underworld	By Offenbach	6
Any Original	Poet and Peasant Overture	By von Suppe	6
Any Original	Polovetsian Dances	By Borodin	6
Boosey Hawkes	Rodeo Suite	By Aaron Copland	6
Any Original	Ruslan and Ludmilla Overture	By Glinka	6
Any Original	Swan Lake Suite Op 20A	By Tchaikowsky	6
Any Original	Symphony No. 1, 5	By Beethoven	6
Any Original	Symphony No. 2	By Borodin	6
Any Original	Symphony No. 2	By Hanson	6
Any Original	Symphony No. 9 (From The New World)	By Dvorak	6
Boosey Hawkes	Variations on a Shaker Melody	By Aaron Copland	6