

Cultivating Collaborative Musical Expression in Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsals

Mike Vecchio

Assistant Professor of Music Education

University of Illinois

vecchiom@illinois.edu

Kim Fleming

Assistant Director of Bands

University of Illinois

kflem@illinois.edu

Preparation to Inform Expressive Interpretation

Ways to explore the composer's intent

- ❖ Form
 - Even vs. uneven phrase lengths
 - Repetition/interaction for themes or motives
 - Pacing and length of each formal section
- ❖ Harmony
 - Expected vs. unexpected key changes
 - Engaging harmonies
 - Types of cadences - open? closed?
- ❖ Articulations
 - Implied style
 - Range and frequency of articulation markings
 - Articulation shape (weight and length of the beginning, middle, and end of each sound)
- ❖ Texture
 - Transparency/chamber music/tutti
 - Balance of orchestration for varied colors/timbres
 - Pacing of textural density
- ❖ Expressive Markings
 - Pacing of expressive peaks
 - Dynamic range and variation of intensities
 - Phrase shape within printed dynamics

Repertoire to Facilitate Student's Interpretation

This is not an exhaustive list but is meant to serve as a catalyst for ideas

Utilizing character

Includes music inspired by song and dance

- ❖ Leonard Bernstein/arr. Grundman, *Candide Suite*
- ❖ Jodie Blackshaw, *Terpsichorean Dances*
- ❖ Carol Britten Chambers, *Dances for the Muse, Terpsichore*
- ❖ Gala Flagello, *Love & Nature*
- ❖ Nubia Jaime-Donjuan, *Little Mexican Suite*
- ❖ David Maslanka, *Rollo Takes a Walk*
- ❖ Chen Yi, *Spring Festival*

Utilizing text

Includes music with lyrics, choral transcriptions, or pieces based on folk songs

- ❖ Carolyn Bremer, *Early Light*
- ❖ Percy Grainger, *Irish Tune from County Derry*
- ❖ Adolphus Hailstork, *New Wade'n Water*
- ❖ Susan LaBarr / arr. Wilson, *Grace Before Sleep*
- ❖ Andrew David Perkins, *Tuebor Suite*
- ❖ Omar Thomas, *Shenandoah*
- ❖ Frank Ticheli, *Amazing Grace*

Utilizing imagery

Includes music inspired by visual art, color, or is programmatic

- ❖ Steven Bryant, *Dusk*
- ❖ Viet Cuong, *Moth*
- ❖ Kevin Day, *Ember Skies*
- ❖ Norman Dello Joio, *Scenes from the Louvre*
- ❖ Roshanne Etezady, *Parhelion*
- ❖ Jack Frerer, *Twirling Aimlessly*
- ❖ Jennifer Jolley, *Ash*



Resources to Explore Student-Centered Musical Expression

Bobby Adams, *Music: From Skill to Art* (GIA Publications)

Aaron Copland, *What to Listen for in Music* (New American Library)

Richard Floyd, *The Artistry of Teaching and Making Music* (GIA Publications)

Ed Lisk, *Artistic Nuance: Uncovering the Mystery of Musical Expression* (Meredith Music Publications)

David McGill, *Sound in Motion: A Performer's Guide to Greater Musical Expression* (Indiana University Press)

David Morrison, *The Band Whisperer: A Practical Guide to Making Beautiful Music* (Neil A. Kjos Music Company)

Jackie Wiggins, *Teaching for Musical Understanding* (Oxford University Press)

Notes & Questions

