

A Chat with Chuk

Thursday, December 18 10:45-11:55, W182

Chuk Cushinery

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There is so much good music out there, not being performed. Why not offer some of these pieces to increase your student's awareness of the vastness of the repertoire? Elgar, Tchaikovsky and Beethoven won't mind.

Here are just a few – Hans Gal – Serenade for Strings, Julius Beliczay – Serenade, Op. 36, Peter Dodd – An Irish Idyll, Peter Hope – Momentum Suite, Robert Kajanus - Adagietto, Robin Milford – Festival Suite, Florence Price – String Quartet in G, Joan Trimble – Suite for Strings, Gareth Walters - Divertimento, Leo Weiner – Divertimento No. 1

In addition to repertoire, gently modified parts allow all students to participate in this literature, regardless of skill level. It takes time, but you would be surprised the impact on your ensemble.

Adapted for Access Arrangements © Here is one example of my approach to an underperformed masterwork:

Ex. 1 Scenes of the Scottish Highlands, Movement 1 Strathspey “The braes o’ Tullymet
by Sir Glanville Bantock, Arranged by Chuk Cushinery © 2025 A Schitzengrinz Publication



How I Did It

Reflections on a career in public school music education.

Step 1 – Find yourself

Step 2 – Be yourself

Step 3 – Don't compromise yourself (but learn to be sneaky)

Lastly, here is my contribution to the underperformed repertoire project.

I could use your help ...

Underperformed Music List

Chukcush.com is home of the **Underperformed Music List**. You will also find a submittal form for you to share things you have found that are not listed. Please only submit compositions that you have performed with your students.

Find Composers

Step 1 – Talk to your colleagues. Obvious right? I can't tell you how many times my colleagues shared a little-known composer or underperformed performed piece with me. Our colleagues are our number one resource!

Step 2 – Search the internet. Tedious work, millions of rabbit holes but can lead to spectacular music.

Below is a very abbreviated list of societies, organizations, etc. that specialize in promoting composers. These entities are very easy to find with an internet search. It takes time to sift through search results but there is always a productive end to the journey. Search terms include – composers, composer societies, contemporary composers, etc.

These examples should serve as a guide for the searches you under take.

Canadian Music Center	https://cmccanada.org/
Classical Net – Societies, Orgs, Foundations	http://www.classical.net/music/links/society.php
Contemporary Music Center (Ireland)	https://www.cmc.ie/
Hans Gal Society	https://www.hansgal.org/
Institute for Composer Diversity	https://www.composerdiversity.com/
John Ireland Trust	https://johnirelandtrust.org/
Israel Music Institute	https://www.imi.org.il/
Latvian Composers Union	http://www.komponisti.lv/home/
The Robin Milford Trust	https://robinmilfordtrust.org.uk/
Music Organization Index	https://www.kwsnet.com/music-organizations.html
Sphinx Organization	https://www.sphinxmusic.org/
Swedish Musical Heritage	https://www.swedishmusicalheritage.com/