



MIND THE GAP

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BACKGROUND

- Zeeland Public School - 2021-2022 student population of 35
 - Population of about 85 my first year here in 1993.
- Currently PK-12 superintendent, music teacher and librarian
- Band size
 - Largest 23
 - Smallest 5 (my first year)
 - 2 flutes, 1 oboe, 1 clarinet, 1 alto sax
 - What to do?
 - Woodwind quartet music, substituting the alto sax for bassoon.

2021-2022 BAND

- 1 flute (grade 11)
- 1 clarinet (grade 7)
- 1 bass clarinet (grade 10)
- 1 alto sax (grade 8)
- 1 tenor sax (grade 11)
- 3 trumpets (grade 8, 11, 12)
- 1 trombone (grade 7)
- 1 baritone (grade 9)

WHAT TO DO?

OPTION 1

- HS ensemble rehearses separately
- Work with the 7-8th graders on band music
- Put them all together at the end of the period

WHAT TO DO?

OPTION 2

- Select one easier piece all can play
- Select one easier piece to interest the advanced
 - Select one middle ground



WHAT TO DO?

- OPTION 3

- Solos
- Ensembles
- Honor Bands

MAKING THE MUSIC WORK WHAT IS THE FUNCTION?

- Melody
- Bass line
- Harmonic Line



MELODY

- There must always be a melody line somewhere!
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- If you don't have the part that has the melody, write it in for an instrument you do have.
- It works best if you try to either match the octave range (tenor instrument for tenor instrument) or the timbre (woodwind, brass or instrument family).

BASS LINE

- Even if your lowest instrument is an alto sax, the music sounds more complete with a bass line.
- Rewrite for your lowest instrument.
 - If it's an alto sax, give them a bassoon, baritone, or trombone part; switch the clef to treble and add three sharps.
 - Many grade 2 and 2 1/2 songs have tenor sax, trombone, baritone, bass clarinet, bari-sax, and tuba all on a unified bass line.
- Use a timpani part rather than bass drum!

HARMONY

- Harmony is nice to have if you can get it.
- It is the most expendable part of this process.
- Try to fill in as many of the chord pitches as possible.
- If not possible to cover it all:
 - First be sure to have the root.
 - Next the third
 - Finally the fifth or "color" intervals such as 7th and 9ths.

LAZY 101

- If you only have one clarinet, have them play the second clarinet part (assuming you have a flute or a trumpet).
- If your trumpet struggles with the high part, have him or her play second and have the clarinet play first or even the first trumpet.
- No drums? - Most of your other instruments can take turns covering an essential drum part. Is it truly essential?

LAZY 101

- One drum - again many other instrument players can cover auxiliary parts during long rests.
- Rather than rewriting, check to see if the needed part is already written out in another instrument of the same key.
- Use the timpani rather than bass drum.

EASY SWITCHES

- Clarinet and trumpet parts are interchangeable. Just watch the ranges.
- Bass clarinet and tenor sax and treble clef baritone parts are equally transferable.
- Eb instruments can play any C bass part if you switch the clef and add 3 sharps.
- Flute and oboe parts are interchangeable.
- Huge drum solo (think pep band) and no drummers? Just cut those measures out.

FLEXIBLE INSTRUMENTATION RESOURCES

- Flex-band/Full-Flex/Reimagine
- *Bach and Beyond* by David Newell (Kjos)
- *Concert Ensembles for Everyone* by Peter Blair (Heritage)
- *Yamaha Band Ensembles - Level 1, 2, and 3* by O'Reilly and Kinyon (Alfred)
- *Duets for All (and Trios and Quartets)* by Stoutamire and Henderson
- *Classical Duets (and Trios and Quartets) for All* by William Ryden)
- *First Division Ensembles for Everyone - Levels ?* by Acton Ostling
- Adaptable Works for Band Consortium

FLEXIBLE INSTRUMENTATION CAUTIONS

- Wide variety of possibilities. Check the instrumentation.
- Number of parts can vary from two to ten.
- Some have all instruments have the option to play all parts.
- Some still limit which instruments can play which parts. This may affect your ability to balance the sound.

EXAMPLE - FLEXBAND

- Part 1 - Flute/Oboe, Bb Clarinet/Bb Trumpet, Violin
- Part 2 - Bb Clarinet/Bb Trumpet, Eb Alto Sax, Violin
- Part 3 - Bb Clarinet/Bb Trumpet, Eb Alto sax/Eb Clarinet, F Horn, Violin, Viola
- Part 4 - Bb Tenor Sax/Baritone T. C., F Horn, Trombone/Baritone B. C./Bassoon, Cello
- Part 5 - Bb Bass Clarinet. Trombone/Baritone B.C./Bassoon, Baritone T.C., Cello, Eb Baritone Sax, Tuba, String Bass/Electric Bass
- Percussion, Mallets, Timpani

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