

“Energize Your Program with a Commissioned Work”

Presented by:

Dr. Leroy Osmon and Stan Mauldin

Why commission a work for your ensemble?

The opportunity to have a work written for these particular students.

Have a work composed to fit your ensemble's abilities.

The ability to have the composer visit your program.

Premiere a new composition.

Why commission a work for your ensemble?

Fill the need for special music for a special occasion.

When you know the composer the notes on the paper come alive.

Have your ensemble listed in the credits.

It's Fun!

How to find a composer:

Ask a friend or colleague who has had a work commissioned.

Email or call a composer that you respect. Yes, they will email you back.

Attend composer presented workshops.

Visit Internet composer chat rooms.

Post an ad on social media.

What is the process?

The process is simple.

Find a composer that you like and respect.

Communicate with the composer.

Talk with the composer about your students, their musical strengths/weaknesses/personalities, what kind of music the kids enjoy.

Identify any possible soloist.

Agree on a price. What does that price entail? Is the composer coming in for a clinic? Are you paying travel etc. or just the written music?

What is the process?

Communication is the key to a great composition. Meet with the composer on Zoom, email and phone.

What is the timeline for completion?

For what event is the music composed?

What grade level?

How do you pay for the commission?

What if you don't like the commission?

Create relationships and benefits

A relationship is created by the director and composer but also by the students and composer AND the parents and composer.

My students were excited to play a new composition ever year. They especially enjoyed the unusual harmonies Dr. Osmon favors.

Dr. Osmon is a Granger expert... so we played a lot of Granger.

UH Recording session of commissioned works.

From the director's point of view, the composers and the students.

Expand your student's and directors harmonic language.