

# **What Every Conductor Should Know About a Piece Prior to the First Rehearsal**

(Taken from the *Score & Rehearsal Preparation Worksheet*)

- 1) Background on the Composer
  - a. Dates & Locations of Birth and Death
  - b. Schools Attended
  - c. Former Teachers
  - d. Major Instrument(s)
  - e. Important Posts Held
  - f. Awards, Achievements & Honors
  - g. General Compositional Style
  - h. List of Significant Works
- 2) Relevant Info Learned from the Printed Text in the Score
- 3) Duration of the Piece
- 4) Date of Composition
- 5) Tempi
- 6) Level of Difficulty
- 7) Unusual Instrumentation
- 8) Glossary of Italian, German or French Terms
- 9) Numbered Measures in the Score
- 10) Recordings Studied
- 11) Relevant Literature on the Work Studied
- 12) Overall Form of the Composition
- 13) Keys in Order of Appearance
- 14) Flowchart of the Entire Piece
- 15) Marked and Prepared the Score
- 16) Sang Through, Studied and Marked Each Individual Part in the Score for Phrasing, and Breath Marks
- 17) Seating Recommendation for the Piece
- 18) Percussion Parts Determined and Assigned
- 19) Solo/Soli/Section Parts Assigned
- 20) Errors Corrected in Score and Parts
- 21) Anticipated Problem Spots and Planned Rehearsal Strategies/Lesson Plans
- 22) Memorized Key Rehearsal Spots
- 23) Practiced Conducting in Front of a Mirror