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**The Midwest Clinic
Chicago, IL
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**Building Winning Orchestras
Mark Laycock, clinician**

Objective

In my work as an adjudicator and conductor, I have become aware of a number of common issues that distinguish the finest ensembles. These advanced ensemble techniques—well beyond just “notes and rhythms”—are among the factors that elevate an orchestra to the upper echelon of peer ensembles. This session will explore these characteristics, providing practical suggestions for their implementation.

Balanced Texture

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Sufficient Tempo Alteration

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Accurate Dotted Rhythms

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Consistent Articulation

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Expressive Articulation

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Warmth, Resonance in Soft Passages

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Expressive Releases

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Execute Phrase Endings with Care

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Isolation of Current and Future Events

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Well-Paced Dynamic Shifts

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Expressive Fermatas

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Musical Accompanimental Lines

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Careful Evaluation of Editorial Markings

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Steady Tempo in Rests

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Steady Tempo in Pizzicato

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Consistent Tempo in Slow, Legato Passages

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Consistent Tempo in Changing Rhythmic Values

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Alignment of Differentiated Rhythms

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Nuanced Approach to Dynamics and Tempo

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Spontaneity within the Performance

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