

The United States Army Strings

Music as Diplomacy in Washington: Examples for Exciting Orchestra Classes

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Our duties as members of The United States Army Strings

- Job is to play for the highest levels of the military and the government
- We are required to perform a wide range of music, as an orchestra, a strolling string ensemble, and in chamber settings
- Requires us to be versatile in our technique and repertoire
- Enables us to be diplomats through our music

Benefits of having strolling as part of your classroom instruction

- Create enthusiasm throughout school system about string program, in an era of decreasing budgets and support
- Create excitement in the classroom
- Instill confidence in young musicians
- Provide new opportunities for performances, including new venues and new audience
- Develop skills in your students that carry over into other areas of study, i.e. memorization

What your school program can do

- Get the attention of the school board and other administrators
- Go to your audience, don't always expect them to come to you
- Offer your strolling ensemble as entertainment for school board meetings or incorporate it into an orchestra concert or holiday festival
- As a strolling ensemble, staging needs are minimal (only chairs for cellos, and possibly a keyboard to plug in), but the rest of the group is self-sufficient, not needing chairs or stands. It is easy for you to make a quick appearance and wow the audience
- You're giving students a new level of self-confidence Gives your ensemble an opportunity to "connect" with the audience by playing music that is appropriate for their occasion
- Can feature selections that are already in your repertoire
- Incorporate chamber music into your program

Importance of marketing yourselves in the midst of a difficult economic climate

- Successful businesses market themselves more during times of a contracting economy
- String programs should do the same for their ensemble by developing new ways to reach their audiences
- In a shrinking economy, more performances need to be scheduled, not fewer

The chamber music experience provides great benefits to students

- How to work effectively as a team
- Enables members to be able to focus on details more than in larger ensembles
- Gives students self-confidence
- Requires commitment from each member to give full participation in rehearsals
- Encourages students to look for their own performance opportunities

Guest string quartet performance from the Chicago Symphony Youth Orchestra

Beethoven String Quartet Opus 132, No. 15, Allegro Appassionato

Carmen Abelson, Violin

Sydney Sawyer, Violin

Kathryn Lowmen, Viola

Nathaniel Ortega, Cello

Selections from clinic include the following:

Strolling Repertoire

It Might As Well Be Spring

Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II
arr. SGM Manuel Bobenrieth

Ashokan Farewell

Jay Ungar
arr. MSG Jim Roberts

On the Street Where You Live from *My Fair Lady*

Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe
arr. SGM (ret.) Alex Smith

Gypsy Dance from Carmen

George Bizet

Everything's Coming Up Roses from

Stephen Sondheim and Jule Styne

Gypsy: A Musical Fable

arr. SGM Manuel Bobenrieth,

Rocky Top

Felice and Boudleaux Bryant

God Bless America

arr. SGM (ret.) Alex Smith

Irving Berlin

Orange Blossom Special

arr. SGM Manuel Bobenrieth

Ervin T. Rouse

arr. SGM (ret.) Alex Smith

Combo Repertoire

All the Things You Are

Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II

My One and Only Love

Guy Wood and Robert Mellin

arr. SGM (ret.) Alex Smith

Just Squeeze Me

Duke Ellington and Lee Gaines

arr. SGM Manuel Bobenrieth