## Concert Band Series Guidelines

### Very Beginning Band  GRADE ½

**Key Signatures:** B♭, E♭ (plus relative minor keys)  
**Time Signatures:**  \[
\begin{array}{c}
\frac{4}{4} \\
\frac{3}{4} \\
\end{array}
\]  
**Rhythm:**  \[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\
\cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\
\end{array}
\] (repeated eighth notes)

**Instrumentation:** Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet, Horn, Trombone/Bassoon, Tuba, Mallet Percussion, Optional Timpani & Percussion.

**Special Considerations:** Utilizes only the first few notes presented in most beginning band methods (most restrictive for holiday selections); designed for both instruction and performance during the first year. Limited use of repeated-pitch eighth notes as the most complex rhythm combined with solid scoring and extensive cross-cueing permits successful performance with incomplete or unbalanced instrumentation, limited percussion instrumentation constructed without rolls.

### Beginning Band  GRADE 1–1½

**Key Signatures:** B♭, E♭, F (plus relative minor keys)  
**Time Signatures:**  \[
\begin{array}{c}
\frac{4}{4} \\
\frac{3}{4} \\
\end{array}
\]  
**Rhythm:**  \[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\
\cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\
\end{array}
\]  

**Instrumentation:** Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet, Horn, Trombone/Bassoon, Tuba, Mallet Percussion, Optional Timpani & Percussion.

**Special Considerations:** Awkward skips avoided; ample cross-cueing (especially solos); care taken to write "easy" low brass/low woodwind parts; percussion may be written at a grade level above winds level.

### Young Band  GRADE 2–2½

**Key Signatures:** B♭, E♭, F (plus relative minor keys)  
**Time Signatures:**  \[
\begin{array}{c}
\frac{4}{4} \\
\frac{3}{4} \\
\end{array}
\]  
**Rhythm:**  \[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\
\cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\
\end{array}
\]  
**Instrumentation:** Flute; Oboe; Bassoon; 1st & 2nd Clarinet; Bass Clarinet; Alto Saxophone; Tenor Saxophone; Baritone Saxophone; 1st & 2nd Trumpet; Horn; Trombone; Baritone; Tuba; Mallet Percussion; Timpani & Percussion—for popular music; Synthesizer/Keyboard/Piano & Drumset parts, when included, are optional.

**Special Considerations:** Awkward skips avoided; ample cross-cueing (especially solos); care taken to write "easy" low brass/low woodwind parts; percussion may be written at a grade level above winds level.

### Concert Band  GRADE 3–3½

**Key Signatures:** B♭, E♭, F, A♭, C (plus relative minor keys)  
**Time Signatures:**  \[
\begin{array}{c}
\frac{4}{4} \\
\frac{3}{4} \\
\frac{6}{8} \\
\end{array}
\]  
**Rhythm:**  \[
\begin{array}{cccc}
\cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\
\cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\
\cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\
\end{array}
\]  
(reasonable rhythms w/no extended syncopation)

**Instrumentation:** 1st & 2nd Flute; Oboe; Bassoon; 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Clarinet; Bass Clarinet; 1st & 2nd Alto Saxophone; Tenor Saxophone; Baritone Saxophone; 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Trumpet; 1st & 2nd Horn; 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Trombone; Euphonium; Tuba; Mallet Percussion; Timpani & Percussion (expanded)—for popular music; Synthesizer/Keyboard/Piano; Drumset & Electric Bass parts, when included, are optional.

**Special Considerations:** Extensive cross-cueing (particularly for solos for Horn, Bassoon, Oboe, & Bass Clarinet); composers are encouraged to use expanded percussion, particularly and accessory instruments.

### Symphonic Band  GRADE 4+

**Key Signatures:** as necessary for musical content  
**Time Signatures:** as necessary for musical content  
**Rhythm:** as necessary for musical content  
**Instrumentation:** C Piccolo; 1st & 2nd Flute; 1st & Opt. 2nd Oboe; 1st & Opt. 2nd Bassoon; 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Clarinet; Bass Clarinet; Contrabass Clarinet (opt.); 1st & 2nd Alto Saxophone; Tenor Saxophone; Baritone Saxophone; 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Trumpet; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Horn; 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Trombone; Euphonium; Tuba; Mallet Percussion; Timpani & Percussion (expanded)—for popular music; Synthesizer/Keyboard/Piano; Drumset & Electric Bass parts, when included, are optional.

**Special Considerations:** as necessary for musical content.
Very Beginning String Orchestra
Grade ½
Key Signatures: G, D, plus relative minors
Ranges: Violin, Viola, Cello—no extensions; String Bass—1st position
Rhythms: \( \text{I} \)
Special Considerations: Limited slurring, fingerings are suggested where appropriate

Beginning String Orchestra
Beginning Full Orchestra
Grade 1–1½
Key Signatures: C, G, D, plus relative minors
Ranges: Violin, Viola, Cello—no extensions (except Violin Lo 1 on the E string); String Bass—1st and 3rd positions (F on E String)
Wind and Percussion Instrumentation: Flute; Oboe; Clarinet 1, 2; Opt. Bb Bass Clarinet; Bassoon;
Opt. Bb Alto Saxophone; F Horn; Trumpet 1, 2; Trombone; Tuba; Mallet Percussion; Timpani; Percussion 1, 2;
Opt. Piano; Supplemental Parts for Bb Tenor Saxophone and Bb Baritone Saxophone
Rhythms: \( \text{I} \)
Special Considerations: Slurs and ties are included, fingerings and shifting (bass) are suggested where appropriate

Intermediate String Orchestra
Intermediate String/Full Orchestra
Grade 2–2½
Key Signatures: C, G, D, A, F, Bb, plus relative minors
Ranges: Violin, Viola, Cello—1st through 3rd positions with all extensions; String Bass—1st through 4th positions with all extensions
Wind and Percussion Instrumentation: Flute; Oboe; Clarinet 1, 2; Opt. Bb Bass Clarinet; Bassoon;
Opt. Bb Alto Saxophone; F Horn; Trumpet 1, 2; Trombone, Tuba; Mallet Percussion; Timpani; Percussion 1, 2;
Opt. Piano; Supplemental Parts for Bb Tenor Saxophone and Bb Baritone Saxophone
Rhythms: \( \text{I} \)
Special Considerations: Slurred and hooked bowings, double stops, syncopation, fingerings and shifting are suggested where appropriate; optional divisi for extended range

Concert String Orchestra
Concert Full Orchestra
Grade 3–3½
Key Signatures: C, G, D, A, F, Bb, Ab, plus relative minors
Ranges: All strings—1st through 5th positions
Wind and Percussion Instrumentation: Flute 1, 2; Oboe; Clarinet 1, 2; Opt. Bb Bass Clarinet; Bassoon;
F Horn 1, 2; Trumpet 1, 2; Trombone 1, 2; Tuba; Mallet Percussion; Timpani; Percussion 1, 2; Opt. Piano;
Supplemental Parts for Bb Alto Saxophone 1, 2; Bb Tenor Saxophone; Bb Baritone Saxophone
Rhythms: All rhythms
Special Considerations: Fingerings and shifting are suggested where appropriate, optional divisi for extended range

Symphonic String Orchestra
Symphonic Full Orchestra
Grade 4+
Key Signatures: As needed for content
String Instrumentation: As needed for content
Wind Instrumentation: As needed for content
Ranges: As needed for content
Rhythms: As needed for content

*Grade level guidelines are subject to interpretation and based upon the musical context.
SOUND INNOVATIONS
Grades 1–2
Stimulating arrangements that reinforce newly learned notes, bowings, key signatures, rhythmic patterns, and musical terms and symbols. Each selection includes an optional piano accompaniment, Violin III, and a reproducible educational pack.

STRING EXPLORER
Grades 1–2
Correlated with the String Explorer method, the pieces in this series fortifies the skills learned by first- and second-year string players. Each selection includes a Violin III part as well as optional piano accompaniment.

STRING ORCHESTRA
Grades 1–4
The grand tradition of Highland/Etling continues in this exciting series of original compositions and arrangements. Written by many of the leading composers of school orchestra music, each selection is carefully graded and edited. Each work is chosen for its musicality, uniqueness, and artistic and educational quality.

FIRST PHILHARMONIC
Grades 1–2
Especially designed with young musicians in mind, this series has everything needed to ensure your students' first full-orchestra experience is both enjoyable and successful. Clear, easy-to-read parts are well bowed, and fingered with all measures numbered.

FULL ORCHESTRA
Grades 2–4
This series provides challenging yet very playable arrangements for the full orchestra. A variety of styles is represented, with the emphasis on giving the students the opportunity to experience first-hand the wonders of the symphony orchestra and its literature.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>String Orchestra</th>
<th>Time Signatures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>½</td>
<td>Key Signatures: C, G, D, plus relative minors</td>
<td>G, D, plus relative minors</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wind and Percussion Instrumentation: Flute; Oboe; Clarinet I, II; Opt. Bb Clarinet; Bassoon; Opt. F Horn; Trumpet I, II; Trombone; Tuba; Mallet Percussion; Timpani; Percussion 1, 2; Opt. Piano; Supplemental Parts for Tenor Saxophone and Baritone Saxophone</td>
<td>Flute; Oboe; Clarinet I, II; Opt. Bb Clarinet; Bassoon; Opt. F Horn; Trumpet I, II; Trombone; Tuba; Mallet Percussion; Timpani; Percussion 1, 2; Opt. Piano; Supplemental Parts for Tenor Saxophone and Baritone Saxophone</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rhythms:</td>
<td>Flute; Oboe; Clarinet I, II; Opt. Bb Clarinet; Bassoon; Opt. F Horn; Trumpet I, II; Trombone; Tuba; Mallet Percussion; Timpani; Percussion 1, 2; Opt. Piano; Supplemental Parts for Tenor Saxophone and Baritone Saxophone</td>
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<tr>
<td>1–1½</td>
<td>Special Considerations: Slurs and ties are included, fingerings and shifting (bass) are suggested where appropriate</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Time Signatures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2–2½</td>
<td>Key Signatures: C, G, D, A, F, Bb plus relative minors</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wind and Percussion Instrumentation: Flute; Oboe; Clarinet I, II; Opt. Bb Clarinet; Bassoon; Opt. F Horn; Trumpet I, II; Trombone; Tuba; Mallet Percussion; Timpani; Percussion 1, 2; Opt. Piano; Supplemental Parts for Tenor Saxophone and Baritone Saxophone</td>
<td>Flute; Oboe; Clarinet I, II; Opt. Bb Clarinet; Bassoon; Opt. F Horn; Trumpet I, II; Trombone; Tuba; Mallet Percussion; Timpani; Percussion 1, 2; Opt. Piano; Supplemental Parts for Tenor Saxophone and Baritone Saxophone</td>
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<td>Rhythms:</td>
<td>Flute; Oboe; Clarinet I, II; Opt. Bb Clarinet; Bassoon; Opt. F Horn; Trumpet I, II; Trombone; Tuba; Mallet Percussion; Timpani; Percussion 1, 2; Opt. Piano; Supplemental Parts for Tenor Saxophone and Baritone Saxophone</td>
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<td>3–3½</td>
<td>Special Considerations: Slurred and hooked bowings; double stops, syncopation, fingerings and shifting are suggested where appropriate; optional divisi for extended range</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Key Signatures: As needed for content</td>
<td>As needed for content</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>String Instrumentation: As needed for content</td>
<td>As needed for content</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wind Instrumentation: As needed for content</td>
<td>As needed for content</td>
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