



Alfred Music Submission Guidelines

For Concert Band

At Alfred Music, we believe that everyone should have the opportunity and necessary information to submit music to be considered for publication. We encourage composers of all backgrounds and levels of experience to create and submit music for review.

In addition to full-time composers, teachers are very often some of the best writers of educationally focused music—finding the balance between art and education is a challenge, but one that we encourage you to try. The framework that follows is designed to aid in the creation of music that fosters the education and growth of instrumental music students from all over the world. Please view these as guidelines rather than rules, as musical context is also very important in defining grade levels. Music that is submitted must be in the public domain or an original work. The instrumentation must align with our offered series, and works must be intended for the educational market.

Our catalogs are not without limits—with that in mind, please do not be discouraged if your submission is not accepted for publication. Publication decisions are multifaceted; if a piece does not move forward for publication that is not always an indication of the quality of the writing. Also, with the number of submissions we receive, it is impossible to provide specific feedback about why a piece may not have been accepted. We sincerely appreciate your understanding and want you to know that every submitted piece will be reviewed and responded to. Thank you for considering Alfred Music as a home for your music!

Please begin the submission process by reviewing our most recent releases to ensure that your creative work is targeted to our audience and in alignment with our guidelines. View Alfred's most recent band releases [here](#).

For more information, enjoy [this](#) article from the Alfred Music Blog.

Alfred Concert Band

Alfred Developing Band Series GRADE ½–2

Instrumentation: Flute; Oboe; 1st & 2nd Clarinet; Bass Clarinet; 1st & 2nd Alto Saxophone; Tenor Saxophone; Baritone Saxophone; 1st & 2nd Trumpet; F Horn; Trombone/Baritone/Bassoon; Tuba; Mallet Percussion; Percussion & Timpani. For beginning level pieces, the instrumentation may be reduced and omit 2nd parts for Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, or Trumpet.

Series description: Designed for when your beginning performers are feeling more comfortable playing together as an ensemble and ready to perform slightly more challenging music, Alfred's Developing Band Series is the ideal choice. Each piece is solidly scored with stability and confidence in mind. As works approach the grade two level, multi-part independence increases to support musical growth. Suited for first-, second-, and third-year players, this series is in full-score format with reduced instrumentation.

Alfred Young Symphonic Series GRADE 2–3

Instrumentation: Flute; Oboe; Bassoon; 1st & 2nd Clarinet; Bass Clarinet; 1st & 2nd Alto Saxophone; Tenor Saxophone; Baritone Saxophone; 1st & 2nd Trumpet; Horn; 1st & 2nd Trombone; Euphonium; Tuba; Mallet Percussion, Percussion & Timpani

Series description: Full-sounding original compositions and transcriptions are provided in this bright and bold symphonic band series. Students are presented with more challenging performance concepts, both interpretively and technically, that help them to develop overall musicianship with limited instrumentation (2 trumpets, 2 clarinets, 2 trombones, and a single French horn part) while providing a complete sound that delivers satisfying performances.

Alfred Concert Band Series GRADE 3–5

Instrumentation: Piccolo (opt.); 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; Percussion & Timpani

Series description: Designed for concert bands at the high school and collegiate levels, as well as community bands, this series includes original compositions and arrangements by a number of well-known and emerging composers. Each work is chosen for its musicality, uniqueness, and appropriateness for the serious concert program.



Belwin Concert Band

Very Beginning Band GRADE ½

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

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

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

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

Young Band GRADE 2–2½

Instrumentation: Flute; Oboe; Bassoon; 1st & 2nd Clarinet; Bass Clarinet; Alto Saxophone; Tenor Saxophone; Baritone Saxophone; 1st & 2nd Trumpet; Horn; Trombone; Baritone; Tuba; Mallet Percussion, Percussion & Timpani—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 a grade level above winds level.

Concert Band GRADE 3–3½

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; Percussion (expanded) & Timpani—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 mallet and accessory instruments.

Symphonic Band GRADE 4+

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; Percussion (expanded) & Timpani—for popular music; Synthesizer/Keyboard/Piano; Drumset & Electric Bass parts, when included, are optional.

Special Considerations: as necessary for musical content.



Alfred Music Concert Band

Grade 1/2



Alfred Developing Band Series
Belwin Very Beginning Band Series



The musical score is arranged in a vertical column with ten staves. From top to bottom, the instruments are: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, B♭ Clarinet, B♭ Bass Clarinet, E♭ Alto Saxophone, B♭ Tenor Saxophone, E♭ Baritone Saxophone, B♭ Trumpet, and Tuba. The F Horn part is split into two staves: the top staff is labeled 'Standard F Horn part' and the bottom staff is labeled 'Alternate F Horn part'. The Trombone/Baritone part is on a single staff. The Tuba part is on a single staff. The music consists of a single melodic line with various note values and rests, including some notes in parentheses.

Percussion instrumentation:

While there may be some flexibility with included percussion based on the musical style, the following instruments are standard inclusions:

Mallets (Bells/Xylophone)
Percussion 1 (Standard instruments)
Timpani (Optional) 2 pitches only

- 60–70 measures, one-page parts
- Be considerate of specific challenges for young musicians—interval leaps, 6th position for trombone, awkward fingerings, etc.
- Consider fatigue and stamina by incorporating appropriate rests.
- Think about beginning band instrumentation with doublings (low winds/low brass, etc.).
- Percussion should be thoughtfully involved with optional timpani (2 drums).
- Variations on these guidelines may appear in some of our published music as guidelines have been adjusted to meet the needs of the industry over time.
- Our grade levels and ranges are based on the context of the music, appropriate educational challenges, and musical needs.
- Please consider an equal and appropriate challenge for all parts, and opportunities for all students to have engaging parts.
- Keys, meters, and rhythms will be considered when determining the grade level of a piece.
- These are intended as guides and not rules.

Alfred Music Concert Band

Grade 1–1½

Belwin: Beginning Band Series
Alfred: Developing Band Grade 1

Alfred: Developing Band Grade 1½



Flute		Flute	
Oboe		Oboe	
Bassoon		Bassoon	
B♭ Clarinet		B♭ Clarinet	
B♭ Bass Clarinet		B♭ Bass Clarinet	
E♭ Alto Saxophone		E♭ Alto Saxophone	
B♭ Tenor Saxophone		B♭ Tenor Saxophone	
E♭ Baritone Saxophone		E♭ Baritone Saxophone	
B♭ Trumpet		B♭ Trumpet	
F Horn		F Horn	
Trombone/Baritone		Trombone/Baritone	
Tuba		Tuba	

Percussion instrumentation:

While there may be some flexibility with included percussion based on the musical style, the following instruments are standard inclusions:

- Mallets (Bells/Xylophone)
- Percussion 1 (Standard instruments)
- Percussion 2 (Accessory instruments)
- Timpani 2 pitches

- 60–70 measures, one-page parts
- Be considerate of specific challenges for young musicians—interval leaps, 6th position for trombone, awkward fingerings, etc.
- Consider fatigue and stamina by incorporating appropriate rests.
- Think about younger band instrumentation with doublings (Trombone/Tenor Saxophone, F Horn/Alto or Tenor Saxophone, low winds/low brass, etc.).
- Percussion should be thoughtfully involved with optional timpani (2 drums, no pitch changes).
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- Our grade levels and ranges are based on the context of the music, appropriate educational challenges, and musical needs.
- Please consider an equal and appropriate challenge for all parts, and opportunities for all students to have engaging parts.
- Keys, meters, and rhythms will be considered when determining the grade level of a piece.
- These are intended as guides and not rules.

Alfred Music Concert Band

Grade 2–2½

Belwin:
Young Band Series

Alfred:
Young Symphonic Series



<p>Flute</p>	<p>Flute</p>
<p>Oboe</p>	<p>Oboe</p>
<p>Bassoon</p>	<p>Bassoon</p>
<p>B♭ Clarinet</p>	<p>B♭ Clarinet</p>
<p>B♭ Bass Clarinet</p>	<p>B♭ Bass Clarinet</p>
<p>E♭ Alto Saxophone</p>	<p>E♭ Alto Saxophone</p>
<p>B♭ Tenor Saxophone</p>	<p>B♭ Tenor Saxophone</p>
<p>E♭ Baritone Saxophone</p>	<p>E♭ Baritone Saxophone</p>
<p>B♭ Trumpet</p>	<p>B♭ Trumpet</p>
<p>F Horn</p>	<p>F Horn</p>
<p>Trombone/ Baritone</p>	<p>Trombone/ Baritone</p>
<p>Tuba</p>	<p>Tuba</p>

Percussion instrumentation:

While there may be some flexibility with included percussion based on the musical style, the following instruments are standard inclusions:

- Mallets (Bells/Xylophone)
- Percussion 1 (Standard instruments)
- Percussion 2 (Accessory instruments)
- Timpani 3 pitches (easy changes may be permitted)

- Consider appropriate challenges—particularly with 2nd parts, think about younger players and consider range, fatigue, intervallic leaps, etc.
- Percussion should be thoughtfully involved (timpani, 3 drums).
- Variations on these guidelines may appear in some of our published as guidelines have been adjusted to meet the needs of the industry over time.
- Our grade levels and ranges are based on the context of the music, appropriate educational challenges, and musical needs.
- Please consider an equal and appropriate challenge for all parts, and opportunities for all students to have engaging parts.
- Keys, meters, and rhythms will be considered when determining the grade level of a piece.
- These are intended as guides and not rules.

Alfred Music Concert Band

Grade 3–3½

Alfred Young Symphonic Series
Alfred Concert Band Series
Belwin Concert Band Series



Musical score for concert band instruments. The score is written for the following instruments: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, B♭ Clarinet, B♭ Bass Clarinet, E♭ Alto Saxophone, B♭ Tenor Saxophone, E♭ Baritone Saxophone, B♭ Trumpet, F Horn, Trombone/Baritone, and Tuba. Each instrument part shows a single note with a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) and a fermata. The notes are: Flute (C5), Oboe (B4), Bassoon (B3), B♭ Clarinet (B4), B♭ Bass Clarinet (B3), E♭ Alto Saxophone (B3), B♭ Tenor Saxophone (B3), E♭ Baritone Saxophone (B3), B♭ Trumpet (B4), F Horn (C5), Trombone/Baritone (B3), and Tuba (B2). The B♭ Clarinet and B♭ Trumpet parts include fingering indications: 1. and 2./3. for the B♭ Clarinet, and 1. and 2./Bar. for the B♭ Trumpet. The B♭ Bass Clarinet and E♭ Baritone Saxophone parts include a circled 'e' symbol next to the note. The Trombone/Baritone part includes a circled 'e' symbol next to the note. The Tuba part includes a circled 'e' symbol next to the note.

Percussion instrumentation:

Expanded percussion instrumentation is acceptable at this level. The following instruments are standard inclusions:

- Mallets (Bells/Xylophone)
- Percussion 1 (Standard instruments)
- Percussion 2 (Accessory instruments)
- Timpani 3-4 pitches with appropriate changes

- Variations on these guidelines may appear in some of our published music as guidelines have been adjusted to meet the needs of the industry over time.
- Our grade levels and ranges are based on the context of the music, appropriate educational challenges, and musical needs.
- Please consider an equal and appropriate challenge for all parts, and opportunities for all students to have engaging parts.
- Keys, meters, and rhythms will be considered when determining the grade level of a piece. These are intended as guides and not rules.
- While the Alfred Young Symphonic Series has music at the grade 3 level technical and range considerations should be on the lower end of that level.

Alfred Music Concert Band

Grade 4+

Alfred Concert Band Series
Belwin Symphonic Band Series



The image shows a musical score for a concert band, with ten staves. Each staff is labeled with an instrument name on the left. The instruments are: Flute/Piccolo, Oboe, Bassoon, B♭ Clarinet, B♭ Bass Clarinet, E♭ Alto Saxophone, B♭ Tenor Saxophone, E♭ Baritone Saxophone, B♭ Trumpet, F Horn, and Trombone/Baritone. The Trombone/Baritone staff is further divided into Bass Tbn. and Baritone. The score consists of a single melodic line for each instrument, starting with a whole note and ending with a half note. The notes are: Flute/Piccolo (C4), Oboe (D4), Bassoon (E3), B♭ Clarinet (B3), B♭ Bass Clarinet (B2), E♭ Alto Saxophone (D4), B♭ Tenor Saxophone (B3), E♭ Baritone Saxophone (B2), B♭ Trumpet (B3), F Horn (C4), Bass Tbn. (B2), and Baritone (B2). Above the Flute/Piccolo staff, 'Fl.' is written above the first note and 'Picc.' above the second note. Above the B♭ Clarinet staff, '1.' and '2./3.' are written above the second and third notes respectively. Above the B♭ Trumpet staff, '1.' and '2./3.' are written above the second and third notes respectively. Above the F Horn staff, '(C)' is written above the second note. Above the Trombone/Baritone staff, '(B)' is written above the second note. The notes are connected by a diagonal line from the first note to the second note.

Percussion instrumentation:
As needed for content.

- Variations on these guidelines may appear in some of our published music as guidelines have been adjusted to meet the needs of the industry over time.
- Our grade levels and ranges are based on the context of the music, appropriate educational challenges, and musical needs.
- Please consider an equal and appropriate challenge for all parts, and opportunities for all students to have engaging parts.
- Keys, meters, and rhythms will be considered when determining the grade level of a piece.
- These are intended as guides and not rules.