

Look Ma, No Hands: Student Led Rehearsals and Performances

2018 Ohio Music Education Professional Development Conference
Friday, February 9, 2018, 12:30pm
Hyatt Regency, Columbus, Ohio

Background Information

<i>Orpheus Chamber Orchestra</i>	<i>The Ohio State University Symphonic Band (Dr. Scott Jones, Conductor)</i>
	

Pickerington North Symphonic Band Student Led Performances:

- Capital University New Music Reading Clinic (2014)
- OMEA Professional Development Conference (2016)
- OMEA District Band Adjudicated Event (2017)

Student Led Performing and Rehearsing is...

- More than just performing without conductor
- Students take ownership of the complete rehearsal process from start to finish
- Very little input from teacher

Benefits for Student Musicians

- Encourages active participation
- Encourages critical thinking
- Promotes a deepened sense of accomplishment and *esprit de corps* within ensemble
- Develops ensemble listening skills
- Develops verbal communication skills
- Promotes ownership of the rehearsal process
- Develops ability to utilize full score

Student Impressions

Challenges	Positive Outcomes
Time management	New perspective on the rehearsal process
Interpersonal	Learn how to work with peers in a large group setting
Levels of participation	Develop leadership & public speaking skills
Musical	Students enabled to solve musical issues on their own

Benefits for Teachers

- Observe rehearsal environment
- Listen to ensemble for extended periods of time
- Ultimate formative assessment
- Enjoy!

The Process

Getting Started

- Lots of inefficiency, challenges, etc. at first
- Familiar major scale in half-notes (students start themselves)
- Chorales

Materials/Set-up

- Score
 - Every student (or stand) has a copy
 - Purchase or secure permission to copy
 - Paper vs. electronic
 - Projection to screen
- Score Study
 - Experience level of musicians
 - Ensemble score study led by teacher
 - Score study with selected students (e.g., section leaders, etc.)
- Personnel
 - Designated listeners to assist with questions of balance, blend, etc.
 - Leader to help with starting pieces (situated with good sight lines)
- Set-up
 - Traditional
 - Non-traditional
 - Circle
 - Quartets

Student-Led Rehearsal Planning

- Start rehearsal with two to three goals
- End each rehearsal with a few minutes of group discussion
 - Two to three musical accomplishments/progress
 - Two to three musical challenges
 - Also may be worthwhile to have students discuss rehearsal procedures/non-musical achievements and concerns

Ground Rules

- Any musician can stop the ensemble at any time
- Stand when you speak
- Give constructive critique with a proposed solution
- Emphasize at the start of the process: every student's voice is important

Other Considerations

- Teach students techniques for giving prep with instrument or breath
- Discuss movement while playing

Repertoire

Million Dollar Question

- We spend a lifetime trying to master the art of repertoire selection
- Student led repertoire selection process very similar to any other repertoire discussion
 - What is the appropriate challenge for my students?
 - What role will it be filling on the overall concert program?
 - Is it music of artistic merit?
 - Composers, style, etc.

Special Considerations for Student Led Works

- What do we want students to learn from the experience?
 - How to rehearse on their own
 - How to solve musical issues on their own
 - How to work together to achieve common goals without help from teacher
 - Provide high quality musical experience for students and audience
- What should I look for in repertoire?
 - Select pieces where students will not have significant issues with:
 - Music reading
 - Technique
 - Musical vocabulary
 - Musical/Emotive concepts
 - Select pieces that are the appropriate length
 - For student physical/musical stamina
 - For your overall concert programming
 - For your concert/rehearsal prep cycle
- Factor in Overall Concert/Rehearsal Cycle
 - Rehearsing/Performing a student led work will take more time
 - Must be factored into overall concert/rehearsal cycle
- Any selection of music has the potential to be successful as a student-led piece

Pickerington North Symphonic Band Student Led Repertoire

2014/15	On a Hymnsong of Phillip Bliss	arr. David Holsinger
2016	In Paths of Truth and Grace	arr. Randall Standridge
2017	Shenandoah	arr. Frank Ticheli
2018	Nettelton	arr. Jonnie Vinson

Scan QR Code for session handout, videos, and links to additional resources!



Questions or Want to Learn More:

Feel free to contact us if you would like to learn more about this process or have questions about getting started:

Marc_Parulekar@PLSD.US

Dr. Scott Jones (Ohio State): Jones.4371@osu.edu

