

MBDA MSHSL Music List Approval Criteria

Literature Inclusion Criteria:

- The composition has form – not a form, but form – and reflects a balance between repetition and contrast.
- The Composition reflects shape and design and creates the impression of conscious choice and judicious arrangements on the part of the composer.
- The composition reflects craftsmanship in orchestration, demonstrating a proper balance between transparent and tutti scoring, and between solo and group colors.
- The composition is sufficiently unpredictable to preclude an immediate grasp of its musical meaning.
- The composition is consistent in its quality throughout its length and in its various sections.
- The composition is consistent in its style, reflecting a complete grasp of technical details and clearly conceived ideas.
- The composition reflects ingenuity in its development, given the stylistic context in which it exists.
- The composition is genuine in idiom and is not pretentious.
- The composition has musical validity which transcends factors of historical importance, or factors or pedagogical usefulness.
- The composition should not be of a popular or show tune genre.
- The composition should not be written for solo instrument(s) with band accompaniment.

Derived in part from:

Iowa High School Music Association: Required Literature List, Concert Band-Large Group Music Festival

Gilbert, Jay W. An Evaluation of Wind Band Literature According to Specific Criteria of Serious Artistic Merit (Replication-Update). Research Thesis, Doctor of Music Degree in Conducting, Northwestern University, 1992.

Category Criteria

Category 1:

Rhythm: Challenging Rhythms including polyrhythms; changing meters, asymmetrical meters, non-metric notation.

Range: Extreme Ranges for all instruments

Part Independence: Extremely Independent Parts

Instrumentation: Diverse Instrumentation requirements, including piano, harp and percussion.

Suitability: Suitable for advanced high school bands

Category 2:

Rhythm: Free use of Syncopation.

Range: Expanded Ranges for all instruments.

Part Independence: Independence of parts; free use of solo scoring.

Instrumentation: Diverse Instrumentation requirements especially in woodwinds and percussion.

Suitability: Suitable for mature high school bands

Category 3:

Rhythm: Intermediate Rhythms; Some duplet and triplet rhythms.

Range: Expanding Ranges

Part Independence: Some independence of parts

Instrumentation: Diverse instrumentation, less use of cues and cross-cues.

Suitability: Suitable for small high school bands with limited instrumentation and rehearsal time.

Note: Flex pieces will be considered on their own musical merits and are eligible for all three categories.

Derived in part (and shamelessly stolen) from:

Iowa High School Music Association: Required Literature List, Concert Band-Large Group Music Festival

Dvorak, Thomas L. Best Music for Young Band, Brooklyn, NY: Manhattan Beach Music, 1986.

Dvorak, Thomas. Et al. Best Music for High School Band. Brooklyn, NY: Manhattan Beach Music, 1993.

