Reading Session Penn State ASTA October 2025

All pieces listed as: Composer - Title - Grade, Publisher

D Major

- Balmages, Brian Burst! Grade 1.5, FJH
 - o 2 or 3 parts, Vln1, Vln2/Vla, Vc/DB
 - o Grade 1 Into the Sky, need piano
 - o Grade ½ Abandoned Funhouse, need piano
- Donahoe, Erica March of the Realm Grade 1, Kendor
 - Good parts for lower strings
- Drake, Emmett Mountain Climbing Grade 1, Cane River
 - o Different counting between sections, separate Vc and DB parts
- Frueh, George T Salsa Fest Grade 1, Kendor
 - Pizz to Arco sections, easy to teach, very spicy
- Meyer, Richard Miniature Symphony Grade 1, Alfred
 - Multi-movement (short movements!), uses D Major scale notes
- Straub, Dorothy Simple Square Dance Grade 1, Boosey & Hawkes
 - o Tune has MSSS Rhythm, C in Vc, Cello 2 Part, no e-print
- Williams, Mark Rustic Dance Grade 1, Alfred
 - MSSS Rhythm, big vertical rhythm sections, good low strings parts

G Major (or intro to C and F)

- Caponegro, John British Grenadiers Grade 2, Alfred
 - o G Maj, key change, good low strings (appropriate DB part)
- Isaac, Merle Apollo Suite Grade 2, Alfred
 - o Multi-movement, charming

E Minor (or modal)

- Spata, Doug Gargoyles Grade 2, Alfred (out of order... oops!)
 - o B Minor, Running 8ths throughout (almost), low strings start melody
- Caponegro, John Fiddling A-Round Grade 2, Kendor
 - o Teach melody together, 4th fingers and IF's (Vln, Vlas), round
- Grice, Rob Fire Dragon Mountain Grade 1, Alfred
 - Really Grade 1.5, Good for low strings, cannon, high B for violins
- Meyer, Richard Dragon Hunter Grade 1, Alfred
 - Really Grade 2 (or 1.5), cannon, pizz middle section, addicting
- Newbold, Soon Hee Storm Grade 1.5, FJH
 - Focus on low ranges, cross rhythms, long
- Silva, Alam Lee The Knight Errant Grade 2, Excelcia
 - Fun accents, Off string?, (BUT Vc/DB parts combined)



"Extended" Technique

- Longfield, Robert Turning Point Grade 2.5-3, Hal Leonard
 - o D Minor, tempo changes, parts very independent
- Meyer, Richard Sahara Crossing Grade 1, Alfred
 - o Bb's and Eb's (G Minor, but written with 1 #), ½ Pos in DB
- Meyer, Richard Night Shift Grade 2, Alfred
 - Shifting!!
- Phillips, Bob Toucan Tango Grade 2, Alfred
 - D Minor to D Major, cool tango rhythms (syncopation)
- Spata, Doug Gauntlet Grade 2, Alfred
 - o D Minor, off-string-ish, in 4 but switch to 2

Advanced Pieces (& Transcriptions)

- Dackow, Sandra (Holst) Jupiter Grade 4, Tempo Press
 - o Transcription, probably should be Grade 5
- Gruselle, Carrie Lane (Ravel) Mother Goose Suite Grade 5, FJH
 - Transcription
- Meyer, Richard Incantations Grade 4, Alfred
 - o Harmonics, key and meter changes, tight 16th note rhythms

Other Advanced Repertoire Ideas

- Bartok "Romanian Folk Dances"
- Dvorak, Elgar, Grieg, Tchaikovsky
- Herrmann "Prelude to Psycho"
- Hindemith "8 Pieces"
- Holst St. Paul Suite
- Mendelssohn String Symphonies
- Newbold "Perseus"
- Nielsen Suite
- Rutter Suite for Strings
- Shostakovich Chamber Symphony (8th Quartet, C Minor)

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