

Reading Session

Penn State ASTA October 2025

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

D Major

- Balmages, Brian - **Burst!** - Grade 1.5, FJH
 - Grade 1 - Into the Sky
 - Grade ½ - Abandoned Funhouse
- Donahoe, Erica - **March of the Realm** - Grade 1, Kendor
 - Good parts for lower strings
- Drake, Emmett - **Mountain Climbing** - Grade 1, Cane River
 - 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
 - Tune has MSSS Rhythm, C in Vc, 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
 - G Maj, key change, good low strings (appropriate DB part)
- Isaac, Merle - **Apollo Suite** - Grade 1-2, Alfred
 - Multi-movement, charming
- Spata, Doug - **Gargoyles** - Grade 2, Alfred
 - Running 8ths throughout (almost), low strings start melody

E Minor (modal)

- Caponegro, John - **Fiddling A-Round** - Grade 2, Kendor
 - Teach melody together, 4th fingers (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, Low range of low strings, (BUT Vc/DB parts combined)

"Extended" Technique

- Longfield, Robert - **Turning Point** - Grade 2.5-3, Hal Leonard
 - D Minor, tempo changes, parts very independent
- Meyer, Richard - **Sahara Crossing** - Grade 1, Alfred
 - 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
 - D Minor, off-string-ish

Advanced Pieces (& Transcriptions)

- Dackow, Sandra (Holst) - **Jupiter** - Grade 4, Tempo Press **
 - Transcription, probably should be Grade 5
- Gruselle, Carrie Lane (Ravel) - **Mother Goose Suite** - Grade 5, FJH
 - Transcription
- Meyer, Richard - **Incantations** - Grade 4, Alfred
 - 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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