

The FJH Music Company
Series Guidelines Overview
and Selection Criteria
(revised Feb. 2004)

Below is a brief overview of each grade level which is presented more in depth in the following pages. However, a brief note on general selection criteria applies to all grade levels and should always be considered.

All pieces will be evaluated in terms of musical integrity. Most band directors and conductors in general will agree that the majority of published music these days tends to be more commercial in nature with less emphasis placed on compositional integrity, musicality, and pedagogy. We feel that it is important to stress the musical value of each piece, and will only consider pieces that fall into this category.

FJH Starter Series (Grade .5)

Ideal for the first several months of instruction. All instruments are limited to a six note diatonic range and the piece is playable with only flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet, and trombone. Several exercise lines are included to help teach different elements of the piece.

FJH Beginning Band Series (Grade 1):

These pieces are appropriate within the first year of instruction. Clarinets do not go above the break. Plenty of doublings throughout with appropriate amounts of rest.

FJH Developing Band Series (Grade 1.5):

Slightly more advanced than beginning band, 1st clarinets start going over the break. Rhythms and ranges are expanded to accommodate the end of first-year instruction as well as the beginning of second-year instruction.

FJH Young Band Series (Grades 2–2.5):

Appropriate for middle school and smaller high school groups. 2nd clarinets usually stay below the break. Parts begin to have more independence, and instrumentation increases slightly.

FJH Concert Band Series (Grades 3–4):

Appropriate for upper-level middle school and high school groups. Includes expanded instrumentation and ranges.

FJH Symphonic Band Series (Grades 5-6)

For advanced high school, college, and professional ensembles

Note that range guides are provided for each grade level. These are the absolute maximum ranges. However, a jump to the extreme range could result in a higher grade level (i.e. an octave jump in a trumpet to its highest available note often does not keep it in the same grade level). Be sure to write pieces that are playable in a realistic setting.

THE FJH MUSIC COMPANY
Series Description Guidelines

Starter Series

Grade .5

- * Must be playable using Concert Bb through G of a Bb Major Scale
 - *Very* limited use (if any) of sharps or flats, and must be among the first learned
- * Pieces must be performable using only flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet, and trombone.
 - * It is recommended that the piece is written using only these five instruments.
- * Keys: Bb, Eb, and relative minors
- * Meters: 4/4, 2/4
- * Rhythms: Quarter notes, eighth notes (2 max in a row), limited use of dotted quarter
- * Should be approximately 30–35 measures long (close to 1 minute)
- * **Should include 3–4 supplementary exercises** (4–8 bars) to help students learn the piece.
Supplementary material is provided at the end of the piece in the score
- * Special considerations: Horn and Tenor Sax parts may need to be adjusted to double different voices throughout in order to maintain a comfortable range.

Instrumentation (no div. and only one part per instrument):

Flute

Oboe (doubles flute)

Bassoon (doubles trombone, but supply its own line in score)

Bb Clarinet (always below break)

Bb Bass Clarinet (doubles trombone)

Eb Alto Sax

Bb Tenor Sax

Eb Baritone Sax (doubles trombone)

Bb Trumpet

F Horn (always doubled - often in A. Sax)

Trombone

Baritone/Euphonium (doubles trombone)

Tuba (doubles trombone 8vb)

Bells (doubles flute - written 8vb)

Snare Drum/Bass Drum

Percussion (strongly recommended to include a 2nd part, but should always be optional)

Can include instruments such as Cr. Cym., Sus. Cym., Tri., and Tom-toms...

Grade .5 Score Setup, Range, and Rhythm Guide

Available Rhythms

The image displays a musical score for a Grade .5 band, organized into 16 staves. The top three staves (Flute, Oboe, Bassoon) are in a key signature of two flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor) and a 4/4 time signature. The Flute staff shows a sequence of notes: a half note B-flat, a quarter note G, a quarter note F, a quarter note E, and a quarter note D. A bracket labeled "Available Rhythms" spans from the start of the Flute staff to the end of the first measure of the Oboe staff. The remaining staves (B-flat Clarinet, B-flat Bass Clarinet, E-flat Alto Saxophone, B-flat Tenor Saxophone, E-flat Baritone Saxophone, B-flat Trumpet, F Horn, Trombone, Baritone/Euphonium, Tuba, Bells, Snare/Bass Drum, and Crash Cymbals/Triangle) are in a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D-flat minor) and a 4/4 time signature. Each of these staves begins with a half note B-flat in the first measure, followed by rests for the remainder of the first measure and the rest of the page. The page is numbered 2 through 6 at the bottom.

Flute

Oboe

Bassoon

B \flat Clarinet

B \flat Bass Clarinet

E \flat Alto Saxophone

B \flat Tenor Saxophone

E \flat Baritone Saxophone

B \flat Trumpet

F Horn

Trombone

Baritone/
Euphonium

Tuba

Bells

Snare Drum
Bass Drum

Crash Cymbals
Triangle

2 3 4 5 6

THE FJH MUSIC COMPANY
Series Description Guidelines

Beginning Band Series

Grade 1

- * Keys: Bb, Eb, (F), and relative minors
- * Meters: 4/4, 2/4, 3/4
- * Rhythms: Quarter notes, eighth notes, dotted quarter
- * Should be approximately 50–70 measures (assuming 4/4 time)
- * Great care should be taken to write idiomatically for each instrument using good voice leading
Avoid awkward skips (particularly in Bass Clarinet and Bari Sax)

Instrumentation:

- Flute
 - Oboe (always doubled)
 - Bassoon (doubles trombone, but supply its own line in score)
- Bb Clarinet 1 & 2 (one part is also acceptable - always below break)
 - Bb Bass Clarinet (doubles trombone - always below the break)
- Eb Alto Sax (occasional div. acceptable, but not very often)
 - Bb Tenor Sax (always doubled)
 - Eb Baritone Sax (doubles trombone)
- Bb Trumpet 1 & 2 (one part is also acceptable)
 - F Horn (always doubled – often in A. Sax and T. Sax)
- Trombone
 - Baritone/Euphonium (doubles trombone)
 - Tuba (doubles trombone 8vb)
 - Bells
 - Optional Timpani (if desired)
 - Snare Drum/Bass Drum
 - Percussion (a second part is encouraged, but should be optional. This way, groups with a lot of percussionists can keep them all busy)

Grade 1 Score Setup and Range Guide

Available Rhythms

The score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Flute:** Starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then rests for the remainder of the piece.
- Oboe:** Starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then rests.
- Bassoon:** Starts with a quarter note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, and then rests.
- B♭ Clarinets (1 & 2):** Both parts start with a quarter note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, and then rests.
- B♭ Bass Clarinet:** Starts with a quarter note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, and then rests.
- E♭ Alto Saxophone:** Starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then rests.
- B♭ Tenor Saxophone:** Starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then rests.
- E♭ Baritone Saxophone:** Starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then rests.
- B♭ Trumpets (1 & 2):** Both parts start with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then rests.
- F Horn:** Starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then rests.
- Trombone:** Starts with a quarter note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, and then rests.
- Baritone/Euphonium:** Starts with a quarter note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, and then rests.
- Tuba:** Starts with a quarter note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, and then rests.
- Bells:** Remains silent throughout the piece.
- Snare Drum / Bass Drum:** Remains silent throughout the piece.
- Percussion:** Remains silent throughout the piece.

The score is divided into measures 2 through 7. The first measure (measure 1) contains the initial notes for all instruments.

THE FJH MUSIC COMPANY
Series Description Guidelines

Developing Band Series
Grade 1.5

- * Keys: Bb, Eb, F, and relative minors
- * Meters: 4/4, 2/4, 3/4 (very easy cut-time - possible to play also in 4/4)
- * Rhythms: Quarter notes, eighth notes, dotted quarter
Syncopation allowed, but should not have more than two before falling on a strong beat
- * Should be approximately 50–70 measures (assuming 4/4 time)
No more than 1 page parts
- * Great care should be taken to write idiomatically for each instrument using good voice leading
Avoid awkward skips (particularly in Bass Clarinet and Bari Sax)
- * Solos allowed in major instruments, but should always be marked as “Optional”

Instrumentation:

- Flute (occasional *div.* allowed, preferably on long sustained notes)
- Oboe (always doubled, or optional)
- Bassoon (doubles trombone, but supply its own line in score)
- Bb Clarinet 1 (limited writing above the break)
- Bb Clarinet 2 (below the break)
- Bb Bass Clarinet (doubles tuba - below the break)
- Eb Alto Sax (occasional *div.* acceptable, but not very often)
- Bb Tenor Sax (always doubled)
- Eb Baritone Sax (doubles tuba)
- Bb Trumpet 1
- Bb Trumpet 2
- F Horn (always doubled – often in A. Sax and T. Sax)
- Trombone (can have separate part from tuba, but not overly difficult)
- Baritone/Euphonium (may double tuba or trombone as necessary)
- Tuba
- Bells (tends to double flute - written 8vb, but can be doubled with other instruments and have some minor independent work)
- Timpani (if desired - no more than two drums allowed with no re-tuning)
- Snare Drum/Bass Drum (or similar instruments...)
- Percussion (strongly recommended to include - possibly 2 Percussion Parts if one is optional)
Can include instruments such as Cr. Cym., Sus. Cym., Tri., and Tom-toms...

THE FJH MUSIC COMPANY
Series Description Guidelines

Young Band Series
Grades 2 and 2.5

- * Keys: Bb, Eb, F, (Ab) and relative minors / modes
(C) possible for Grade 2.5
- * Meters: 4/4, 2/4, 3/4, cut-time, limited 6/4, 5/4 (6/8 and 3/2 limited, and only with grade 2.5)
- * Rhythms: Use of dotted eighth - sixteenth permitted, but limited
Grade 2.5 – Limited use of 16th notes – preferably in groups of 2, but occasionally in groups of 4 when pedagogically appropriate
- * Should be approximately 60–100 measures (1 page parts preferred, 2 pages limited)
- * Great care should be taken to write idiomatically for each instrument using good voice leading
Avoid awkward skips (particularly in Bass Clarinet and Bari Sax)
- * Solos allowed in major instruments, but do not have a lot of individual solos.

Instrumentation:

Flute (option of having 2 parts, especially in grade 2.5)
Oboe (usually doubles flute)
Bassoon (doubles tuba or baritone)
Bb Clarinet 1
Bb Clarinet 2 (below the break with few options to go above)
Bb Bass Clarinet (mostly doubles tuba and mostly below break if not entirely)
Eb Alto Sax (option of having 2 parts, especially in grade 2.5)
Bb Tenor Sax
Eb Baritone Sax (doubles tuba)
Bb Trumpet 1
Bb Trumpet 2
F Horn (always doubled – often in A. Sax and T. Sax)
Trombone (option of having two parts, especially in grade 2.5)
Baritone/Euphonium
Tuba
Bells Also can consider “Mallet Percussion” instead of Bells alone
Timpani (no more than three drums allowed with limited re-tuning)
Perc. or Snare Drum/Bass Drum (or similar instruments...)
Percussion (strongly recommended to include)
Additional percussion suggested if appropriate (should be designed to be optional)

Grade 2-2.5 Score Setup, Range, and Rhythm Guide

Available Rhythms limited (grade 2.5 only)

Flute

Oboe

Bassoon

Bb Clarinets
1
2

Bb Bass Clarinet

Eb Alto Saxophones
1
2

Bb Tenor Saxophone

Eb Baritone Saxophone

Bb Trumpets
1
2

F Horn

Trombones
1
2

Baritone/Euphonium

Tuba

Bells

Timpani

Percussion 1
(Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Triangle)

Percussion 2
(Crash Cymbals, Finger Cymbals, Suspended Cymbal, Wind Chimes, Tam-tam)

THE FJH MUSIC COMPANY
Series Description Guidelines

Concert Band Series

Grade 3-4

- * Keys: Bb, Eb, F, Ab, C and relative minors
- * Meters: Duple and triple meter allowed (including 6/8 etc...) – some mixed meter if approached very logically
- * Should be approximately 120–140 measures (generally 1–2 page parts)
Grade 4 can be longer if necessary
- * Great care should be taken to write idiomatically for each instrument using good voice leading
Avoid awkward skips
- * Solos allowed in major instruments – if desired in another instrument (i.e. horn), cue in an appropriate major instrument
- * Can have more independence within the bass voices of the group, but continue to have a strong low voice doubling (mostly at grade 3)

Instrumentation:

Piccolo (in grade 3, should mostly double flute 1)
Flute 1
Flute 2
Oboe (continue to double, but starts to gain more independence – cued solos are allowed)
Bassoon (continue to double - cued solos are allowed)
Bb Clarinet 1
Bb Clarinet 2/3
Bb Bass Clarinet
Eb Alto Sax 1
Eb Alto Sax 2
Bb Tenor Sax
Eb Baritone Sax
Bb Trumpet 1
Bb Trumpet 2/3
F Horn 1/2 (Continue to double important lines)
F Horn 3/4 (for grade 4 and higher)
Trombone 1/2
Trombone 3 (should not be an integral part in grade 3)
Baritone/Euphonium
Tuba
Mallet Percussion
Timpani (allow for ample re-tuning time if necessary)
Percussion 1 (S.D., B.D., etc...)
Percussion 2 (Sus. Cym, Cr. Cym, Tri., etc...)
Additional percussion if necessary

Grade 3 Score Setup, Range, and Rhythm Guide

Additional rhythms possible if approached well

Available Rhythms

Opt. Picc as well)
Follow Flute 2 range
in general)

The score is organized into systems for different instrument groups. The Flutes system includes parts for Flute 1 and Flute 2. The Oboe and Bassoon parts are in the next system. The Clarinets system includes B♭ Clarinets (1, 2, 3) and B♭ Bass Clarinet. The Saxophones system includes E♭ Alto Saxophones (1, 2), B♭ Tenor Saxophone, and E♭ Baritone Saxophone. The Trumpets system includes B♭ Trumpets (1, 2, 3). The Horns system includes F Horns (1, 2) and Trombones (1, 2, 3). The Euphonium and Tuba parts are in the next system. The Bells, Timpani, and Percussion parts are in the final system. The percussion parts are labeled Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum) and Percussion 2 (Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbal, Triangle). The score shows a rhythmic pattern starting in measure 2, with a bracketed section of eighth notes in measure 3. Annotations indicate '8 maximum in general' and '-More possible if approached well' for the eighth notes. Measure numbers 2, 3, 4, and 5 are indicated at the bottom of the page.