

Chamber (Music) is in Session:

Student Led Ensembles That Make Your Job Easier

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2018 Midwest Clinic
Wednesday, December 19, 10:30 AM W179

Infrastructure-Where and how do I start?

- “How do I do this without being at the Band Hall until 9PM?”
- Start small in the first year
 - Form one group of talented and responsible students.
 - Sign them up to do something very visible and “cool” in the eyes of their peers. This could be:
 - Choirs can be formed and rehearsed in place of sectionals.
 - Teach ensembles in your band class that are flexible instrumentation. Then students can choose their own groups or perform in larger ensembles.
- Second Year
 - Interest form in fall
 - Coordinator is responsible for the first rehearsal to get them on track. Then it is the student’s responsibility to rehearse and communicate with each other.
 - Mix upper and underclassmen so no group can graduate out
 - Emphasize importance in larger ensemble settings
 - Chamber Showcase

Utilize your staff

- You have a staff of specialists working with you. Use them to the best of their ability.
- Designate a chamber coordinator
- Start with just one group for one hour per week
- Move to bi-weekly or monthly coaching sessions
- What if I don’t have a staff?
 - Utilize your student leadership
 - Work chamber time into your band class. There are several flexible instrumentation options for winds and percussion listed below.
 - Create a chamber showcase to get students excited using healthy competition.

Making ensembles student led and accountable

- Technology is your friend! Use it frequently and train your students to look there for information
 - Sign-Up Genius
 - Google Classroom/Google Drive

- Wunderlist
- Remind 101
- Check In through google Forms

What do students gain?

- Part independence
- Listening skills
- Students have to “wear many hats”
- Gives sections like the low brass a chance to play melodic content that may otherwise not be in their band repertoire.
- Gives students a sense of ownership over the process and ultimate success of the ensemble.
- Teamwork skills
- Integrity of their part as well as integrity to meet and rehearse as a chamber group.
- Problem solving skills

What does this look like?

- High School
 - 2nd and 3rd band large choirs
 - Top band utilizes specialized groups
- Middle School
 - Beginners-large class choirs
 - 3rd band large choirs-in place of solos for programs that are building
 - 2nd band smaller section choirs, more opportunity for crossing over between sections
 - Top band-smaller and more specialized instrumentation

How to make it FUN and POSITIVE

- Make it social
- Get the parents involved
- Community outreach
- Build relationships with the students and encourage them to build relationships within their small group.
- Talk about the importance of group dynamic
- Create opportunities students care about

Questions? Please feel free to contact us!

- Chris Allen- callen@willisd.org
- Brenden Johnson- bjohnson@willisd.org

Repertoire

- Students do not have to perform Telemann to have a profound musical experience. Playing any music at a high level will achieve your desired results, and may help encourage students to be involved.

Books/Collections great for Beginning to intermediate students		
Flexible Instrumentation (The most bang for your buck!) Each publication listed has at least two levels of books in their series.		
Compatible Series	Larry Clark Carl Fischer LLC	Duets, Trios, and Quartets
Excellence in Chamber Music	Pearson/Nowlin KJOS Music Company	
Festival Ensembles	Pearson/Elledge KJOS Music Company	
Selected Duets	Voxman-Rubank Hal Leonard Publishing	
Woodwinds		
Six Trios	James Hook Hal Leonard Publishing	Flute, Oboe, or Saxophone
The Gotham Collection of Clarinet Quartets	Jack Spratt Music Co.	
Quartet Repertoire for Saxophone	Rubank Hal Leonard Publishing	
Brass		
Brass Recital/Concert Repertoire for Brass Sextet	Rubank Hal Leonard Publishing	Flexible Instrumentation options for choirs, classes, and sections
Canadian Brass Ensemble Series	Hal Leonard Publications	
Percussion		
Beyond Basics Percussion	Hicks/Rath Tapspace Publications	Basic percussion ensembles that have supplemental parts to fit any sized ensemble.
Rhythmsicles	Rowloff Publications	There are several 'sicles series by Rowloff and are all great for the intermediate percussionist.