



Composing and Arranging for the School Orchestra

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Considering the Point of View

- Students - Engage, Educate, Inspire
- Teacher - Musical, Technical, Curricular
- Listener - Engage, Entertain
- Publisher - Service, Sales

Technical Considerations or How Many Crayons Do I Get?

- Key Signatures, Ranges, Instrumentation, Time Signatures, Rhythms, Special Considerations, Color

Composing/Arranging Concepts

Musical

- Idea Driven
- Musical Concept

Programmatic

- Inspired by a story
- Paints a picture
- Uses imagery

Folk

- Uses folk music
- Often well known tunes
- Traditional and copyright free

Period or Style

- Drawn from periods in music
- Depends heavily on a certain style
- Often features famous composers
- Very close to original in difficulty
- May shorten form

Transcriptions

- Alters classic works
- Often simplifies
- Makes music accessible
- May include major form changes
- May shorten form

Technical/Educational

- Motivated by technical considerations
- Aligned with certain age or grade level
- Develops curricular goals

Medleys

- Uses linked material
- Combines unlinked material
- Condenses longer material a shorter work

Novelty

- Features catchy theme or idea
- Often uses special effects
- Uses clever twists and turns

World Music

- Uses non-traditional sources
- Accents a variety of ethnic groups
- Is often unfamiliar

Alternative Styles

- Features Fiddling, Jazz, Latin, Rock, etc
- Often uses swing or lilted rhythms
- Often includes non traditional instruments
- Often uses a rhythm section
- Often features solos
- Often allows for improvisation

Instrument/Section Feature

- Features a solo instrument
- Features a section
- Features a collection of instruments

Pop

- Uses copyrighted material
- Requires permission
- Often requires composer approval
- Requires royalties

Commission

- May include specific criteria
- Will be dedicated
- Will prepare performance parts
- Requires conductor interaction and a fee
- May involve attending performance

www.phillipsfiddlers.com

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The Business of Music

Permission to arrange

- Contact the permissions department of the publisher: permissions@alfred.com
- Be specific about the use
- Print, audio and video royalties
- Public Domain before 1923 is usually OK

Copyright resources

- www.nmpa.org
- *Copyright: the Complete Guide for Music Educators* by Jay Althouse, Alfred Publishing
- *By the Book*, Rob Monath, Hinshaw Music

Submission procedures

- Submit to one publisher at a time and wait for acceptance or rejection. Match your type of work to the publisher.
- Submit a hard copy with the best recording you can send. You can send MIDI.
- Send to the acquisition editor. Check each publishers website for specific policies.

What makes a good submission?

- Books - idea vs. completed work
- Performance music - all details are complete
- Plain vanilla vs. spicy - Many are received and yours has to stand out!

Contracts

- Contracts are usually issued after the piece is through the production process
- You are signing your rights over to the publisher

Royalties

- Normal royalties are 10% of retail
- Pop royalties are 5% of retail
- Royalties checks usually come after 1 year of sales