

LARGE ENSEMBLES:

General Notes

For questions of acceptable meter, key signatures, tempi, dynamics, and articulation, please refer to the American Band Music Grading Chart.

Generally advised to have parts for optional instruments made if a band has them, but not required for the piece.

All pitches below are written in transposed pitch.

Grade 0.5

Flute: Bb4-G5

Clarinet: C4-A4

Bassoon: Bb2-G3

Trumpet: C4-A4

Trombone: Bb2-G3 (no steps from C3 to Bb2)

Tuba: Eb2-Bb2

Oboe: Bb4-G5

Bass Clarinet: C4-A4

Saxophones: F4-E5

Horn: Bb3-A4

Baritone: Bb2-G3

Required Instrumentation: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium or Tuba (doubling Trombone), Percussion

Rhythms: quarter note, half note, dotted half note, whole note, and paired eighth notes

Optional Instrumentation: Oboe, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Horn, Mallet Percussion (no Marimba), Timpani (max 2 drums)

Notes: Best kept to two different voices happening simultaneously. Use extensive cross-cueing.

Grade 1

Flute: Bb4-Bb5

Oboe: G4-G5

Clarinet: A3-Bb4

Bassoon: Bb2-Bb3

Trumpet: Bb3-Bb4

Trombone: Ab2-Ab3 (no steps from C3 to Bb2)

Tuba: Bb1-Bb2

Bass Clarinet: G3-Bb4

Saxophones: G4-G5

Horn: A4-Bb4

Baritone: Ab2-Ab3

Required Instrumentation: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium or Tuba (doubling Trombone), Percussion

Rhythms: quarter note, dotted quarter note, half note, dotted half note, whole note, and eighth notes

Optional Instrumentation: Oboe, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Horn, Mallet Percussion (no Marimba), Timpani (max 2 drums)

Notes: Best kept to three different voices happening simultaneously. Use extensive cross-cueing. Use very minimal syncopation and some steady sixteenth patterns are acceptable in percussion.

Grade 1.5

Flute: F4-D6

Clarinet: F3-Bb4 (Clarinet 1 can go up to A5)

Bassoon: G2-Eb4

Trumpet: A3-D5 (Trumpet 1 can go up to F5)

Horn: A3-D5

Baritone: G2-D4

Tuba: Bb1-Eb3

Oboe: E4-Bb5

Bass Clarinet: G3-Bb4

Saxophones: D4-C6 (Baritone to A5)

Trombone: G2-D4 (use steps from C3 to Bb2 sparingly)

Required Instrumentation: Flute, Clarinet 1&2, Alto Saxophone, Horn, Trumpet 1&2, Trombone, Euphonium or Tuba, Percussion, Mallet Percussion (no or minimal Marimba)

Rhythms: quarter note, dotted quarter note, half note, dotted half note, whole note, and eighth notes, eighth-sixteenth-sixteenth, and sixteenth-sixteenth-eighth patterns

Optional Instrumentation: Oboe, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Timpani (max 3 drums), Piano

Notes: Use extensive cross-cueing. Percussion can have steady sixteenths and all sixteenth patterns except sixteenth-eighth-sixteenth syncopations. The clarinet use of over the break should be for extended sections, not just a single note and should be approached by a large leap with a similar number of fingers (C4 to G5) rather than stepping into it.

Grade 2

Flute: F4-D6

Clarinet: F3-Bb4 (Clarinet 1 can go up to A5)

Bassoon: G2-Eb4

Trumpet: A3-D5 (Trumpet 1 can go up to F5)

Horn: A3-D5

Baritone: G2-D4

Tuba: Bb1-Eb3

Oboe: E4-Bb5

Bass Clarinet: G3-Bb4

Saxophones: D4-C6 (Baritone to A5)

Trombone: G2-D4 (use steps from C3 to Bb2 sparingly)

Required Instrumentation: Flute, Clarinet 1&2, Alto Saxophone, Horn, Trumpet 1&2, Trombone, Euphonium or Tuba, Percussion, Mallet Percussion (no or minimal Marimba)

Rhythms: quarter note, dotted quarter note, half note, dotted half note, whole note, and eighth notes, two count syncopation, sixteenth patterns

Optional Instrumentation: Oboe, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Timpani (max 3 drums), Piano

Notes: Use extensive cross-cueing and avoid sixteenth-eighth-sixteenth syncopations except in percussion. The clarinet use of over the break should be for short sections, not just a single note and should be approached by a small or large leap rather than stepping into it.

Grade 3

Piccolo: A4-E6

Oboe: C4-C6

Bass Clarinet: E3-G4

Bassoon: D2-G4

Trumpet: Ab4-E5 (Trumpet 1 can go up to G5)

Horn: F3-F5

Baritone: F2-F4

Flute: F4-G6

Clarinet: E3-G5 (Clarinet 1 can go up to C6)

Saxophones: Bb4-D6 (Baritone to Bb5)

Trombone: F2-F4

Tuba: F1-E3

Required Instrumentation: Flute 1&2, Oboe, Clarinet 1&2, Alto Saxophone 1&2, Tenor Saxophone, Horn, Trumpet 1&2, Trombone 1&2, Tuba, Percussion, Mallet Percussion, Timpani (max 4 drums)

Rhythms: quarter note, dotted quarter note, half note, dotted half note, whole note, and eighth notes, three count syncopation, all sixteenth patterns; use minimal sixteenth-eighth-sixteenth syncopations

Optional Instrumentation: Piccolo, Clarinet 3, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Baritone Saxophone, Horn 2, Trombone 3, Euphonium, more expanded Percussion, Piano

Notes: Use cross-cueing for solos on less common instruments.

Grade 4+

Piccolo: F4-G6

Oboe: Bb4-D6

Bass Clarinet: E3-C5

Flute: C4-A6

Clarinet: E3-C6 (Clarinet 1 can go up to F6)

Bassoon: Bb2-Bb4

Trumpet: G4-G5 (Trumpet 1 can go up to C6)

Horn: C3-G5 (Horn 1 can go up to Bb5)

Baritone: E2-G4

Tuba: E1-G3

Saxophones: Bb4-F6 (Baritone and
Tenor to D6)

Trombone: C2-G4 (Trombone 3
can go down to Bb1)

Required Instrumentation: Flute 1&2, Oboe, Clarinet 1&2, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Alto Saxophone 1&2, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Horn 1&2, Trumpet 1, 2, & 3, Trombone 1, 2, & 3, Euphonium, Tuba, Extended Percussion, Mallet Percussion, Timpani

Optional Instrumentation: Piccolo, Horn 3&4, Drumset, Piano, other instruments as appropriate

Flex Band Guidelines

Soprano Voices: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, and Mallet Percussion

Alto Voices: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet, Horn, and Mallet Percussion

Tenor Voices: Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, and Marimba

Bass Voices: Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba

Percussion: Keep to as few instruments as possible. Primary instruments used should be Snare, Bass drum, Crash Cymbal, Suspended Cymbal, and Bells. Timpani should be minimal and optional.

Note: In Flex Band versions, ranges should still be respected in regard to grade difficulty, but instrumentation does not need to be as strict as regular grade submissions. In grades where two voices is the limit, make both voices accessible for all instruments. In grades where three voices is the limit, omit the alto voices except allow Flute to also have a tenor option.

CHAMBER/SOLO GRADING:

General Notes

For questions of acceptable meter, key signatures, tempi, dynamics, and articulation, please refer to the American Band Music Grading Chart.

All pitches below are written in transposed pitch.

Beginner-Intermediate

Flute: G4-D6

Clarinet: F3-A4

Bassoon: Bb2-Bb3

Trumpet: A3-D5

Trombone: G2-Bb3

Tuba: Bb1-C3

Oboe: E4-G5

Bass Clarinet: F3-Bb4

Saxophones: G4-G5

Horn: A4-C5

Baritone: G2-Bb3

Rhythms: quarter note, dotted quarter note, half note, dotted half note, whole note, and eighth notes.

Percussion:

Piano: Best kept to single movement works up to 8 minutes; range width of 4 octaves or less at any given moment preferred; some use of triple v. duple moments allowable.

Notes: Best kept to solos, duets, and trios either with or without accompaniment. Only rhythmically unified brass or woodwind quartets or quintets can fall into this category.

Intermediate-Advanced

Piccolo: A4-E6

Oboe: C4-C6

Bass Clarinet: E3-G4

Saxophones: Bb4-D6 (Baritone to Bb5)

Horn: F3-G5

Baritone: F2-F4

Flute: D4-G6

Clarinet: E3-C6

Bassoon: Bb1-D4

Trumpet: Ab3-G5

Trombone: F2-F4

Tuba: F1-F3

Rhythms: quarter note, dotted quarter note, half note, dotted half note, whole note, and eighth notes, three count syncopation, all sixteenth patterns; use minimal sixteenth-eighth-sixteenth syncopations.

Percussion:

Piano: Multi-movement pieces, like a suite up to 15 minutes are generally accepted; minimal use of poly-rhythms; wide variety of tempi acceptable.

Notes: Works well for solos, duets, trios, and quartets either with or without piano accompaniment. Brass and woodwind quartets and quintets largely fall into this category. Easy single-instrument choir pieces (5+ parts) begin to fall into this category.

Advanced-Collegiate

Piccolo: F4-G6

Oboe: Bb4-D6

Bass Clarinet: E3-C5

Saxophones: Bb4-F6

Horn: G2-Bb5 (or C6)

Bass Trombone: F1-Eb4

Tuba: E1-C4

Flute: C4-A6

Clarinet: E3-F6

Bassoon: Bb2-Bb4

Trumpet: F#3-G5 (or C6)

Trombone: E3-Bb4

Baritone: E2-Bb4

Rhythms: All rhythms acceptable as needed.

Percussion:

Piano: Multi-movement pieces up to 25 minutes are generally accepted; simple use of extended techniques; simple concerti.

Notes: Clarinet parts can be written for either Bb or A instruments. Trumpet parts should be made available in both Bb and C. Tuba parts can be written for either Bb or F instruments.