



Music Performance  
Assessments

# **INTRODUCTION TO THE SELECTIVE MUSIC LIST (SML) FOR BAND**

**Approved in July 2023**

**Updated Annually**

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# HOW THE NEW SML WAS IMPLEMENTED IN 2023

The PMEA Selective Music List (SML) for Band was extensively revised and first implemented at PMEA Music Performance Assessments (MPA's) in 2023. It was formally approved in July 2023 and is updated annually.

Directors are strongly recommended to select music to perform at MPA's from this list. Music not currently on the list may be submitted for approval as in the past.

Complete and submit the online 'Selective Music List Requests Form' to ask this and other common questions concerning repertoire to perform at an MPA, especially those that will continue to emerge for many years while implementing a newly revised list. Those questions will likely include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Permission to perform a piece not currently on the Selective Music List. Pieces submitted will be considered for approval and assigned a PMEA Grade Level.
- Permission to perform fewer movements of a multi-movement piece at a lower grade level instead of the entire piece at the grade level listed. This opportunity expands flexibility for ensembles to perform one or more movements of a multi-movement piece at a lower grade level to expose more students to a piece that they might not be able to perform in its entirety at that time.
- Permission to perform other movements of a given piece than currently listed. The listing for some pieces already indicates specific movements to be performed at a designated grade level. Directors may propose changing the movements involved and the resulting grade level.
- Request to change the current grade level assigned to a given piece. Directors may propose that a given piece be reviewed for possible reclassification at a different grade level, lower or higher.

An ongoing goal will be to identify all the multi-movement pieces listed, review the scores, and determine what options are available for ensembles to perform fewer movements of the same piece but at a lower grade level. Enabling more pieces to be more accessible by more students is a feature of quality lists that we feel should also be a priority in Pennsylvania.

Also, please contact me with any corrections needed in content or spelling for any part of the list: titles, composers, arrangers, or publishers as well as if a given piece is now 'OOP'/'Out of Print' or available only by 'Rental Only' or 'Print on Demand'.

A quality Selective Music List is one that is always an active 'work in progress', continuously evolving to reflect additions from previously published and new repertoire, refinements in number of movements required, additional listings with options to perform fewer movements of a given piece at a lower grade level, adjustments to assigned grade levels, and routine corrections for accuracy.

# HOW THE BAND SML WAS REVISED

The existing PMEA Selective Music Lists for Band, Orchestra and Chorus were last revised in 1991. Developing the new PMEA Selective Music Lists included the following steps:

- Researched existing state and other recognized lists
- Set aside the existing PMEA SML from 1991 to use as a reference and started fresh with current lists
- Identified seven high quality selective music lists for Band to use as primary source documents: Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, National Band Association, New York, the Teaching Music Through Performance series, and Texas
- Acquired the most recent 'list' available from each source
- Developed an Excel spreadsheet layout and then converted or typed each of the seven source lists into the document to then be merged into one master compilation of almost 7,500 titles
- Proofed for spelling, added many first names of composers and arrangers, and standardized the data entry formatting
- Distilled the master compilation into a format listing each individual title and the rating that each piece received, if any, within each of the 7 source lists
- Added the pieces that were not already on the master compilation as submitted by directors and approved since 2004 by Dr. Tad Greig from Westminster College for use at PMEA MPA's, resulting in an initial total of 5,407 listings
- Determined an initial, official PMEA Rating for each title derived from the ratings each received, if any, within the seven source lists, taking into consideration that grade level assignments are not standardized among lists or by publishers. Grading criteria is mostly unavailable.

The official PMEA Band Selective Music List (SML) will be continuously provided as an Excel spreadsheet for maximum director flexibility in sorting and searching.

We recommend perusing the list as sorted By Title; By Composer; By Grade and then by Title; and By Grade and then by Composer.

The initial compilation for Band included 5,407 titles divided into six Grade Levels as follows:

Grade 1 – 451	Grade 4 – 1,038
Grade 2 – 1,082	Grade 5 – 1,007
Grade 3 – 1,143	Grade 6 – 686

These initial 5,407 titles were included on the following number of Source Lists:

7 Source Lists - 96	3 Source Lists - 484
6 Source Lists - 93	2 Source Lists - 1,073
5 Source Lists - 143	1 Source List - 3,263
4 Source Lists - 255	

The 96 titles included on ALL seven Source Lists are listed below sorted by Grade, then by Title:

TITLE	COMPOSER	ARR./ED./TRANS./ADAPT.	PMEA GRADE LEVEL
Early English Suite	Duncombe, William & James Hook	Finlayson, Walter	2
Fanfare, Ode and Festival (after Claude Gervaise)	Margolis, Bob		2
Joy	Ticheli, Frank		2
Adagio for Winds	Del Borgo, Elliot		3
Air for Band	Erickson, Frank		3
American Riversongs	La Plante, Pierre		3
As Torrents in Summer	Elgar, Edward	Davis, Albert O.	3
Battle Pavane, The	Susato, Tielman	Margolis, Bob	3
Chant and Jubilo	McBeth, W. Francis		3
Hymn for Band, A	Stuart, Hugh M.		3
Kentucky 1800	Grundman, Clare		3
Prelude and Fugue in Bb Major	Bach, J.S.	Moehlmann, Roland	3
Sinfonia VI: The Four Elements	Broege, Timothy		3
Three Ayres from Gloucester	Stuart, Hugh M.		3
Yorkshire Ballad	Barnes, James		3
Blessed Are They (from "A German Requiem")	Brahms, Johannes	Buehlman, Barbara	4
Chorale and Shaker Dance	Zdechlik, John		4
Court Festival	Latham, William		4
Elegy for a Young American	Lo Presti, Ronald		4
Fantasia for Band	Giannini, Vittorio		4
Festival Prelude, A	Reed, Alfred		4
Green Bushes, Themes from	Grainger, Percy Aldridge	Daehn, Larry	4
Rhosymedre	Vaughan Williams, Ralph	Beeler, Walter	4
Third Suite	Jager, Robert		4
Toccata for Band	Erickson, Frank		4
Ye Banks and Braes O' Bonnie Doon	Grainger, Percy Aldridge		4
Allerseelen	Strauss, Richard	Davis, Albert O.	5
American Overture for Band	Jenkins, Joseph Wilcox		5
American Salute	Gould, Morton	Lang, Philip	5
Blue Lake Overture	Chance, John Barnes		5
Canzona	Mennin, Peter		5
Chorale and Alleluia	Hanson, Howard		5
Color	Margolis, Bob		5
Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral (from "Lohengrin")	Wagner, Richard	Cailliet, Lucien/Merlin Patterson	5
English Folk Song Suite	Vaughan Williams, Ralph		5
Fanfare and Allegro	Williams, Clifton		5
Fantasia in G Major	Bach, J.S.	Goldman, Richard/Leist	5
First Suite in Eb	Holst, Gustav	Matthews, Colin ed.	5

George Washington Bridge	Schuman, William		5
Hounds of Spring, The	Reed, Alfred		5
Incantation and Dance	Chance, John Barnes		5
Movement for Rosa, A	Camphouse, Mark		5
Original Suite, An	Jacob, Gordon		5
Pageant	Persichetti, Vincent		5
Prelude, Siciliano and Rondo	Arnold, Malcom	Paynter, John	5
Satiric Dances (for a Comedy by Aristophanes)	Dello Joio, Norman		5
Scenes from the Louvre	Dello Joio, Norman		5
Second Suite in F, Op. 28, No. 2	Holst, Gustav	Matthews, Colin ed.	5
Sketches on a Tudor Psalm	Tull, Fisher		5
Symphonic Dance No. 3, "Fiesta"	Williams, Clifton		5
Symphonic Suite (play at least 4 mvts.)	Williams, Clifton		5
Toccata	Frescobaldi, Girolamo	Slocum, Earl	5
Variations on a Korean Folk Song	Chance, John Barnes		5
Watchman, Tell Us of the Night	Camphouse, Mark		5
Aegean Festival Overture	Makris, Andreas	Bader, Albert	6
Al Fresco	Husa, Karel		6
Armenian Dances, Set I	Reed, Alfred		6
Blue Shades	Ticheli, Frank		6
Candide, Overture to	Bernstein, Leonard	Grundman, Clare	6
Celebration Overture	Creston, Paul		6
Chester Overture	Schuman, William		6
Divertimento for Band, Op. 42	Persichetti, Vincent		6
Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night	Del Borgo, Elliot		6
El Salon Mexico	Copland, Aaron	Hindsley, Mark	6
Emblems	Copland, Aaron		6
Festive Overture, Op. 96	Shostakovich, Dmitri	Hunsberger, Donald	6
Fiesta del Pacifico	Nixon, Roger		6
Four Scottish Dances	Arnold, Malcom	Paynter, John	6
Hammersmith: Prelude and Scherzo, Op. 52	Holst, Gustav		6
Heroes, Lost and Fallen (A Vietnam Memorial)	Gillingham, David		6
La Fiesta Mexicana (any 2 mvts.)	Reed, H. Owen		6
Lincolnshire Posy	Grainger, Percy Aldridge	Fennell, Frederick & Mark Rogers (2020)	6
Masquerade for Band, Op. 102	Persichetti, Vincent		6
Music for Prague 1968	Husa, Karel		6
Outdoor Overture, An	Copland, Aaron		6
Paris Sketches (Homages for Band)	Ellerby, Martin	Reynish, Timothy	6
Passacaglia (Homage on B-A-C-H)	Nelson, Ron		6
Polka and Fugue (from "Schwanda the Bagpiper")	Weinberger, Jaromir	Bainum, Glenn Cliffe	6
Profanation (from "Jeremiah, Symphony No. 1")	Bernstein, Leonard	Bencriscutto, Frank	6
Psalm for Band, Op. 53	Persichetti, Vincent		6

Rocky Point Holiday	Nelson, Ron		6
Russian Christmas Music	Reed, Alfred		6
Suite Française	Milhaud, Darius		6
Suite of Old American Dances	Bennett, Robert Russell	Higgins	6
Symphonic Movement	Nelhybel, Vaclav		6
Symphony in Bb, Op. 51 (any mvt.)	Hindemith, Paul		6
Symphony No. 2 (mvt. 1&2)	Ticheli, Frank		6
Symphony No. 2 for Winds and Percussion	Chance, John Barnes		6
Symphony No. 3 (any 2 mvts.)	Giannini, Vittorio		6
Symphony No. 6, Op. 69	Persichetti, Vincent		6
Theme and Variations, Op. 43a	Schoenberg, Arnold		6
Toccata Marziale	Vaughan Williams, Ralph	Battisti	6
Tunbridge Fair	Piston, Walter		6
Variants on a Medieval Tune	Dello Joio, Norman		6
Variations on "America"	Ives, Charles	Schuman/Rhoads, William	6
William Byrd Suite	Byrd, William	Jacob, Gordon	6

It is also notable to acknowledge the 93 titles included on SIX of the seven Source Lists as listed below sorted by Grade, then by Title:

Two English Dances	Anon. or Trad.	O'Reilly, John	1
Balladair	Erickson, Frank		2
Korean Folk Rhapsody	Curnow, James		2
Sea Song Trilogy	McGinty, Anne		2
Stars Asleep, the Break of Day, The	Margolis, Bob		2
American Folk Rhapsody No. 2	Grundman, Clare		3
As Summer Was Just Beginning	Daehn, Larry		3
Belle Qui Tiens Ma Vie (after Thoinot Arbeau)	Arbeau, Thoinot	Margolis, Bob	3
Benediction	Stevens, John		3
Cumberland Cross	Strommen, Carl		3
Down a Country Lane	Copland, Aaron	Patterson, Merlin	3
Flourish for Wind Band	Vaughan Williams, Ralph		3
Ginger Marmalade	Benson, Warren		3
Linden Lea	Vaughan Williams, Ralph	Stout, John	3
Little English Suite	Grundman, Clare		3
Mini Suite	Gould, Morton		3
Occasional Suite, An	Handel, G.F.	Osterling, Eric	3
Old Scottish Melody (Auld Lang Syne)	Wiley, Charles A.		3
On a Hymnsong of Philip Bliss	Holsinger, David		3
Overture for Winds	Carter, Charles		3
Polly Oliver	Root, Thomas		3
Suite from Bohemia	Nelhybel, Vaclav		3
Two Grainger Melodies	Grainger, Percy Aldridge	Kreines, Joseph	3

Variation Overture	Williams, Clifton		3
Amazing Grace	Ticheli, Frank		4
Ambrosian Hymn Variants	White, Donald H.		4
American Elegy, An	Ticheli, Frank		4
Cajun Folk Songs	Ticheli, Frank		4
Concord	Grundman, Clare		4
Contre Qui, Rose	Lauridsen, Morten	Reynolds, H. Robert	4
Courtly Airs and Dances	Nelson, Ron		4
Dedicatory Overture	Williams, Clifton		4
Dusk	Bryant, Steven		4
Fortress	Ticheli, Frank		4
Giles Farnaby Suite (any 5 mvts. incl. mvt. 1)	Jacob, Gordon		4
Hebrides Suite	Grundman, Clare		4
Irish Rhapsody, An	Grundman, Clare		4
Jubilant Overture, A	Reed, Alfred		4
Kaddish	McBeth, W. Francis		4
Longford Legend, A	Sheldon, Robert		4
Masque	McBeth, W. Francis		4
O Magnum Mysterium	Lauridsen, Morten	Reynolds, H. Robert	4
October	Whitacre, Eric		4
Renaissance Fair, The	Margolis, Bob		4
Resting in the Peace of His Hands	Gibson, John		4
Sea Songs	Vaughan Williams, Ralph		4
Shenandoah	Ticheli, Frank		4
Simple Gifts: Four Shaker Songs	Ticheli, Frank		4
Sun Dance	Ticheli, Frank		4
Sussex Mummer's Christmas Carol, The	Grainger, Percy Aldridge	Goldman, Richard	4
Symphonic Overture	Carter, Charles		4
Three Chorale Preludes	Latham, William		4
Bagatelles for Band, Op. 87	Persichetti, Vincent		5
Ballad for Band	Gould, Morton		5
Caccia and Chorale	Williams, Clifton		5
Chorale Prelude: O God Unseen	Persichetti, Vincent		5
Chorale Prelude: So Pure the Star	Persichetti, Vincent		5
Colonial Song	Grainger, Percy Aldridge		5
Elegy	Chance, John Barnes		5
English Dances, Set 1	Arnold, Malcom	Johnstone, Maurice	5
Fantasies on a Theme by Haydn	Dello Joio, Norman		5
Festal Scenes	Ito, Yasuhide		5
Gandalf (Mvt. 1 from "Symphony No. 1, Lord of the Rings")	de Meij, Johan		5
Illyrian Dances	Woolfenden, Guy		5
Incidental Suite	Smith, Claude T.		5

Italian in Algiers Overture	Rossini, Gioacchino	Cailliet, Lucien/Merlin Patterson	5
Procession of the Nobles (from "Mlada")	Rimsky-Korsakov, Nicolai	Leidzen, Erik	5
Pusztá	Van der Roost, Jan		5
Sanctuary	Ticheli, Frank		5
Solitary Dancer, The	Benson, Warren		5
Variations on a Shaker Melody	Copland, Aaron		5
Vesuvius	Ticheli, Frank		5
When Jesus Wept	Schuman, William		5
Armenian Dances, Set II	Reed, Alfred		6
Awayday	Gorb, Adam		6
Enigma Variations, Op. 36	Elgar, Edward	Slocum, Earl	6
Fantasy Variations on a Theme by Nicolò Paganini	Barnes, James		6
Finale from "Symphony No. 4 in F Minor"	Tchaikovsky, P.I.	Safranek, V.F., trans./Ragsdale ed.	6
Finale from "Symphony No. 5"	Shostakovich, Dmitri	Righter, Charles	6
J.S. Dances	Grantham, Donald		6
La Procession du Rocio, Op. 9	Turina, Joaquin	Reed, Alfred	6
Leaves are Falling, The	Benson, Warren		6
March (from "Symphonic Metamorphosis")	Hindemith, Paul	Wilson, Keith	6
Peterloo Overture	Arnold, Malcom	Sayre, Charles	6
Postcard	Ticheli, Frank		6
Savannah River Holiday	Nelson, Ron		6
Sinfonietta (any 2 mvts.)	Dahl, Ingolf		6
Southern Harmony	Grantham, Donald		6
Symphony No. 2 (mvt. 3)	Ticheli, Frank		6
Symphony No. 3, "Slavyanskaya"	Kozhevnikov, Boris	Bourgeois, John R.	6
Terpsichore (after Michael Praetorius)	Margolis, Bob		6
Trittico	Nelhybel, Vaclav		6
Variations on a Theme of Robert Schumann (Happy Farmer)	Jager, Robert		6

Subsequent steps planned concerning the PMEA SML for Band that have not already been mentioned include, but are not limited to, the following:

- To research and establish official PMEA criteria for assigning Grade Levels 1-6 to Band repertoire
- To develop a formal review process by a 'Band Repertoire Review Committee' to determine if submitted pieces should be approved to be added to the PMEA SML for Band and, if so, at what Grade Level.
- To review the last formal edition of the PMEA SML for Band in 1991 to determine if any pieces included that are not on the new PMEA SML for Band should be reinstated.



- To establish a network for borrowing a piece that is out of print from existing libraries throughout the state
- To identify which of the titles included in the PMEA SML for Band are indeed 'masterworks' or 'core repertoire' as an additional resource for new and veteran directors alike

Contact me with questions and suggestions concerning any aspect of the PMEA Selective Music List for Band.

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