**Repertoire Suggestions: High School Orchestra**

Gary Wolfman

**"Symphony # 7"** second movement by Beethoven

I have found that by having students play Beethoven's music, everything about their playing and listening skills get significantly better. By preparing this very expressive movement, students learn about Beethoven's music, the pavanne and theme and variation forms, layering of musical lines, and always have an intense aesthetic response.

**"Toccata"** by Frescobaldi arranged by Kindler

This full orchestra version of the famous Frescobaldi Toccata brings to life the toccata form so popular in the Baroque period. Students learn about the improvisatory nature of a toccata, the polyphonic texture used by the composer, and how a great orchestration brings the organ piece to life.

**"Adagio"** by Samuel Barber

Taken from a string quartet, this piece may be one of the most famous American pieces ever written. If you have advanced string players in every section, the students will love the weaving lines and the intensity of the music. They will learn about a famous American composer; to listen very intently to the harmonic structure as they play their melodic lines; to play with a constant and connected tone in all registers in all dynamic levels; to dwell in the magnificent power of the music.

**"Christmas Concerto Grosso"** by Corelli

If you have two fine violinists and a fine cellist, this piece contains some of the world's greatest music. Written for string orchestra, this 20 minute work introduces students to the from of a concerto grosso and it's place in the development of the orchestra. The different short movements offer great variety yet seem always connected. Students learn about the Baroque Period, the concerto grosso, balance between soloists and ripieno parts, and experience the pure joy found in the music.

**"Eine Kleine Nachtmuzik"** by Mozart

I never tire of this short masterwork. Students love to play it and learn so much about use of the bow and how to articulate in a classical style. It is a great introduction to the music of Mozart and also is a good introduction to sonata-allegro form.