**Repertoire Suggestions: Top 10 Teaching Pieces**

Richard Tengowski

Grade 2 **Air for Band** by F. Erickson

This graceful classic allows the ensemble to develop tone, sustained melodic lines, moving voices, and intonation.

Grade 2 **Portrait of a Clown** by F. Tichelli

This programmatic piece depicts the many faces and characters of a clown. It is sometimes comical, happy, bouncy and sometimes gentle, sad, and hopeful. This piece allows students to express several different styles of music, without changing the tempo or speed of the song.

Grade 2 **Korean Folk Rhapsody** or Song by Curnow, Gingery, or Ployhar

Based on the Korean folk song, Ahrirang, all three versions are tuneful, have cultural significance and allows the students to perform in a variety of styles. The melody, based on a pentatonic scale, provides the tools for fail-proof improvisation.

Grade 2 **Headless Horseman** by T. Broege

This programmatic work is based on Washington Irving's The Legend of Sleepy Hollow. Literary connections can easily be made in this contemporary work. The students will have an effective experience if you are creative with your CMP Plan.

Grade 2 **Soldier's Procession and Sword Dance** by B. Margolis

This piece consists of two Renaissance tunes that are arranged for contemporary concert band. Polyphonic in texture, there are significant stylistic and historical connections to be made.

Grade 3 **Overture for Winds** by C. Carter

This classic piece serves as an excellent template to teaching overture form. The composition demonstrates a proper a balance between repetition and contrast.

Grade 3+ **Aquarium** by J. deMeij

This programmatic suite is full of great compositional devices and full rich scoring.

Grade 3 **Prelude & Fugue in G Minor** by J.S. Bach/Moehlmann

Allows students to experience Bach's contrapuntal writing. A great piece to teach the significance of Bach ingenuity and the elements of Baroque music.

Grade 4 **Suite in Eb** by G. Holst

Cornerstone of the concert band literature. Contains originality, craftsmanship in compositional design and musical decisions, aesthetic appeal, continuity, and balance between repetition and contrast. Examining and dissecting each movement reveals ingenuity.

Grade 4 **Chorale & Shaker Dance** by J. Zdechlik

Based on the American folk song, Simple Gifts, Zdechlik provides a chorale and a set of unique variations, each providing a creative use of compositional technique.