

The Programming Puzzle

How To Plan For Your Band Concerts

Philosophy of Programming

- Band
- Audience
- Conductor

Programming For The Band

- Emphasize QUALITY Music Choices (No Matter The Genre)
- Everyone Should Play Great/Classic Band Literature
- Highlight Strong Players With Solos
- Attract Strong Players To The Group With Challenging Pieces
- “Sneak” in a “Different Than Usual” Piece

Programming For The Audience

- Consider Arc Of The Program
 - Lead The Audience On A Journey
 - Contrast To Provide Intrigue, Anticipation, and Excitement
 - Audiences Need To Hear Great/Classic Band Literature
- “Sneak” In A Challenging Piece To Hear Now And Then

Programming For The Conductor

- Conductors Should Get To Conduct Great/Classic Band Literature
- Important For Conductor To Enjoy The Music
- Conductors Should “Stretch” Sometimes For Growth

Do Your Homework

- Length Of Program
- Consider Seasons Of The Year/Special Anniversary/History
- Themes Vs. Generic
- Styles/Variety
- Commissions
- Pick Music That Targets A Successful Performance-"A" Team Or Lots Of Subs
- Stay Current On Pieces

PCB Indoor/Outdoor Performance “Template”

3 Indoor Concerts

- Concert with Intermission with guest soloist(s) (one per season)
- Concert with PCB only performing on half the concert (sharing the concert with another group) (one per season)
- Concert with Intermission, PCB only (one per season)

4 Outdoor Concerts

- Summer Series
 - Patriotic
 - Kids
 - Solo features (like old-time concert in the park)
 - Big Band Swing

Typical Format For PCB Concerts

- This basic plan can fit a “two-part” concert with Intermission, applying it “twice” (more or less)
- Or a single, straight-through performance like for ACB.
 - High Energy/Impact
 - Slow/Introspective
 - Lighter/Busy/Up-Tempo
 - Major Work/Complex
 - Shorter/Lighter

High Energy/Impact

- March/Fanfare/Overture
 - Marriage Of Figaro
 - March Militaire Francaise
 - Joyride
 - American Overture
 - Moorside March
 - American Salute
 - Smetana Fanfare

Slow/Introspective

- Beauty/Sensitive
 - Cruel Moon
 - Contre Qui Rose
 - Sheltering Sky
 - O Magnum Mysterium
 - Lux Aurumque
 - October
 - Engulfed Cathedral

Lighter/Busy/Up-Tempo

- Suite/Feature

- Molly On The Shore
- American River Songs
- Spangled Heavens
- Bugs
- Handel in the Strand
- Candide
- Slavonic Dances

Major Work/Complex

- Suite/Band Classic
 - Sketches On A Tudor Psalm
 - Divertimento (Persichetti)
 - Polovetzian Dances
 - Chester
 - Variations on America
 - Holst Suites/Vaughan Williams Folk Song Suite
 - Trittico
 - West Point Symphony

Shorter/Lighter

- Marches/Show Tunes

- Washington Grays
- Danzon #2
- Mambo
- Gershwin!
- Mancini
- Bullets and Bayonets
- Paso Dobles like Suspiros de España or Gallito

RCB Performance “Template”

Nov, Feb, March, May (Eisemann Concert Season)

- Typical Format (Usually theme oriented)
 - March/Overture (March to the Scaffold, William Tell)
 - Slow Piece (Ye Banks, slow mvt to Three Ayres)
 - Featured Soloist (Local, and not necessarily each concert)
 - Several “War horse” Tunes (Enigma, Armenian, Arnold)
 - Movie Music (John Williams, Star Trek, Star Wars)
 - Old/New Pop Neil Diamond/Taylor Swift
 - Broadway or Jazz Music Man /Salute to Jazz, Fiddler
 - Sousa March (RCB tradition passed on from Fogelberg to George and then Robin)

Non-Eisemann RCB Events

- December (Holiday concert for the City and Senior Center)
 - Rotate 3 years worth of holiday tunes to keep it fresh
- 4 Summer Series (at Huffhines Park)
 - “Rehash” music from Eisemann Season that works outdoors
- July 4th
 - Very long program for the City Celebration, intersperse with 5 or 6 singer pieces or soloists, Jane Chambers has planned/conducted for over 15 years
- August (2 concerts inside at FUMCR)
 - Jazz Band made up of mostly RCB members
- Sept (special kids concert at FUMCR)

Stay Vigilant!

- Never get complacent about programming
- It's the lifeblood Of Your Ensemble
- Never Easy, But Always Rewarding
- Learn from Successes and Mistakes
- **Go Forth and Program!!!!**