Sight Reading

Helpful Hints for Success

Successful Sight Reading

- Follow the same steps every time you sight read a piece of music
- Don't skip ANY steps, no matter how easy a piece of music may look
- Always try to compare elements of the piece to music you have played before (especially from the current year)

Steps to Successful Sight Reading

- 1. Make sure you have the correct part
 - Correct Instrument (F horn, not Eb horn)
 - Correct Part (1st, 2nd, etc.)
- 2. Check the Key Signature
 - Not only at the beginning but throughout the entire piece (i.e., a traditional march typically changes key at the Trio)

Steps to Successful Sight Reading

3. Check the Time Signature

 Not only at the beginning but throughout the entire piece (i.e., Overtures typically change time signatures in the middle section)

4. Check the Routing

 Are there any repeat signs, 1st and 2nd endings, D.S, D.C. or Codas, etc.

Steps to Successful Sight Reading

- 5. Check for any rhythms you may not recognize
- 6. Check for any accidentals you may not know or may not know the fingerings/positions for.

The Traditional March Form

Introduction

Usually 4 measures

First Strain

Usually Repeated
1st and 2nd endings
Sometimes with dynamic change on repeat

Second Strain

Usually Repeated
1st and 2nd endings
Sometimes with dynamic change on repeat

Trio

Sometimes Repeated., Usually Changes Key (add a flat)
Sometimes has1st and 2nd endings
Ususally with dynamic change on repeat

Possibility 1

1st and 2nd ending only no coda

Possibility 2

No repeat
Play through 1st ending
DC or DS with a Coda or Fine

The Traditional Overture Form

Introduction

Usually 4-8 measures
Usually Marcato or Broadly played

First Section

Sometimes faster than the introduction
Melody usually stated and then
repeated by another instrument group with counter melody

Middle Strain

Usually slower Change of Key Signature Change of Time Signature

Final Section

Sometimes a recap of the First Section Usually changes Key and Time Signature Sometimes begins with percussion

Possibility 1

Sometimes an interesting Routing Sometimes a DC, DS, Coda or Fine

Possibility 2

New Material Sometimes with an additional Coda containing introduction material

Sight Reading Review

Successful Sight Reading

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- Always try to compare elements of the piece to music you have played before (especially from the current year)

Steps for Successful Sight Reading

- Make sure you have the correct part
- Check the key signature
- Check the time signature
- Check the routing
- Check for rhythms
- Check for accidentals

Additional Hints for Successful Sight Reading

- Place your music under your chair when arriving in sight reading
- Don't Talk, Remain attentive to ALL that is going on
- Have paper clips in your folder for use with small concert marches
- When asking questions, speak clearly and loudly
 - Be specific as to what measure, what note, etc.

Additional Hints for Successful Sight Reading

- When ever a section is repeated try to catch things you may have missed (i.e., dynamics, articulations, etc.)
- Always look for major dynamic changes
- Always try to listen to other sections that have the same material you might have.
- DO NOT PLAY unless the band is playing together (this can result in a lowered rating)
- DO NOT remove music from the sight reading folder until told to do so.
- If you get lost during the performance, look up at the director (always look like you know what you're doing.

Sight Reading

Have Fun and Make Music!