

Guidelines for Band

The degree of difficulty from 1 to 6

GRADE 1: very easy, beginners

	TONALITY	METER	RANGE	RHYTHM
Flute/Oboe				
B \flat Clarinet				
B \flat Bass Clarinet				
E \flat Alto Sax				
B \flat Tenor Sax				
E \flat Bariton Sax				
B \flat Trumpet				
F Horn				
Bassoon Trombone/Baritone				
Tuba				
Mallet				
Timpani				
Percussion 1				
Percussion 2				

Instrumentation: extended use of cues, to make playable by incomplete or unbalanced ensembles.

Solos: no solos are allowed

Parts: at least 4 independent parts, homophonic rhythm

Bass Line: unified (bassoon, bass clarinet, baritone sax, trombone, euphonium, tuba)

Percussions: basic instrumentation (snare drum, bass drum, cymbals) without rolls, possible to add timpani, mallets and accessories

Tonality: single tonal center, without modulations

Duration: about 2 minutes 30 seconds (one movement)

Tempo Markings: from 60 to 120 bpm

Rhythm: for shorter values, preference for repeated sounds or diatonic movements

Dynamics: mp, mf, f, crescendo and diminuendo

2 – Guidelines for Band

GRADE 1,5: easy, beginners

	TONALITY	METER	RANGE
Flute/Oboe			
Bb Clarinet			
Bb Bass Clarinet			
E Alto Sax			
Bb Tenor Sax			
E Bariton Sax			
Bb Trumpet			
F Horn			
Bassoon Trombone/Baritone			
Tuba			
Mallet			
Timpani			
Percussion 1			
Percussion 2			

Instrumentation: extended use of cues, to make playable by incomplete or unbalanced ensembles.

Solos: short sections or homogeneous groups

Parts: at least 4 independent parts, homophonic rhythm

Bass Line: unified (bassoon, bass clarinet, baritone sax, trombone, euphonium, tuba)

Percussions: bass drum, cymbals, snare drum with rolls, possible to add timpani, mallets and accessories

Tonality: single tonal center, without modulations

Duration: about 3 minutes 30 seconds (one movement)

Tempo Markings: from 60 to 120 bpm

Rhythm: some syncopation permissible, for shorter values, preference for repeated sounds or diatonic movements

Dynamics: p, mp, mf, f, crescendo and diminuendo

Articulations: accent, staccato, legato on 2 or 3 notes and easy pitch changes (steps), fermata.

GRADE 2: medium easy, young band

	TONALITY	METER	RANGE
Flute/Oboe			Flute Oboe
B♭ Clarinet			
B♭ Bass Clarinet			
E♭ Alto Sax			
B♭ Tenor Sax			
E♭ Bariton Sax			
B♭ Trumpet			
F Horn			
Bassoon Trombone/Baritone			
Tuba			
Mallet			
Timpani			
Percussion 1			
Percussion 2			

Instrumentation: extended use of cues, to make playable by incomplete or unbalanced ensembles.

Solos: easy and short

Parts: differences among melodic line (one or two parts), harmonic and rhythmic accompaniment

Bass Line: unified (bassoon, bass clarinet, baritone sax, trombone, euphonium, tuba) but independent

Percussions: snare drum, bass drum, cymbals, timpani and mallets with rolls, accessories; writing can be one grade up.

Tonality: modulations requested

Duration: about 5 minutes (one movement)

Tempo Markings: from 60 to 132 bpm, rallentando, accelerando, different section in meter and metronome available.

Rhythm: syncopation expected, use simple rhythmic combinations

Dynamics: p, mp, mf, f, ff, sf, fp, crescendo and diminuendo

Articulations: accent, short accent, staccato, tenuto, legato, fermata.

4 – Guidelines for Band

GRADE 2,5: medium, young band

	TONALITY	METER	RANGE
Flute			
Oboe			
B♭ Clarinet			
B♭ Bass Clarinet			
E♭ Alto Sax			
B♭ Tenor Sax			
E♭ Bariton Sax			
B♭ Trumpet			
F Horn			
Trombone			
Bassoon/Baritone			
Tuba			
Mallet			
Timpani			
Percussion 1			
Percussion 2			

Instrumentation: some use of cues permissible, distinctive contrasts between instrumental groups

Solos: easy

Parts: use of easy counterpoint lines

Bass Line: independent, but easy to play

Percussions: snare drum, bass drum, cymbals, timpani and mallets with rolls, accessories; writing can be one grade up.

Tonality: modulations expected

Duration: about 6 minutes 30 seconds (possible more than one movement)

Tempo Markings: from 60 to 144 bpm, rallentando, accelerando, different section in meter and metronome available.

Rhythm: syncopation expected, use simple rhythmic combinations, perhaps variety in meter

Dynamics: p, mp, mf, f, ff, sf, fp, crescendo and diminuendo

Articulations: accent, short accent, staccato, tenuto, legato, fermata.

GRADE 3: medium, band

	TONALITY	METER	RANGE
Flute			
Oboe			
Fagotto			
B♭ Clarinet			
B♭ Bass Clarinet			
E♭ Alto Sax			
B♭ Tenor Sax			
E♭ Bariton Sax			
B♭ Trumpet			
F Horn			
Trombone			
Baritone			
Tuba			
Mallet			
Timpani			
Percussion 1			
Percussion 2			

Instrumentation: free, following instrument's unique textures, use of cues.

Solos: medium difficulty

Parts: multiple parts as necessary for the composer's wishes

Bass Line: independent but medium difficulty

Percussions: as composer needs; writing can be one grade up.

Tonality: modulations expected

Duration: about 10 minutes

Rhythm: extended syncopation expected, with metric changes desirable, avoid writing difficult rhythm combinations with difficult pitch changes (steps)

Dynamics: free

Articulations: free