

From “meh...” to YEAH!

Creating Memorable Musical Moments through Expressive Conducting

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Composer-Conductor-Clinician-Educator

Selecting the best music for your ensemble

- Too difficult – frustration and inability to be expressive
- Too easy – players lose interest
- Finding meaningful music with a message

Consider the tempo best suited to convey the nuances in the score

- Too fast – details are lost
- Too slow – loses energy and flow
- Just because you CAN doesn't always mean you SHOULD

Make sure the musicians are watching

- Smaller, more meaningful gestures
- Don't over-do it! Sometimes less is more
- Change it up each time

Teaching ensemble members to understand their musical role

- Unlocking and revealing the “conversations” in the music
- Action/Reaction – Causation
- Foreground/Background, Color and Texture

Feeling the linear evolution of color and energy in each phrase

- How long is the phrase?
- Which is the most important note?
- Are you going to or coming from?
- How do you handle the tension/release points?

The “choreography” of your gestures

- Where do you need to focus your attention?
- How do you handle multiple simultaneous cues?
- No “thank you” cues – PLEASE!

Consider your FACE and FRAME

- Facial expression and proximity to gestures
- What looks good on YOU? – One size does not fit all - The highly personal nature of conducting
- “Wearing” your passion, joy and emotions - Be a five-year old!
- Positive (and other...) non-verbal reactions and interactions with the ensemble
- Musical charades

Teaching for Independence

- Conducting with your face (Bernstein!)Not conducting at all

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