Grade 9/10 String Ensemble - Unit 1 - Review of Fundamental Skills

Unit Focus

This first unit focuses on reviewing skills learned in middle school, including but not limited to rhythmic literacy, musical expression, and composer intent. In this unit, freshman and sophomores work together to build their skills as an ensemble.

Stage 1: Desired Results - Key Understandings

Standard(s)

National Core Arts Standards
Music Traditional and Emerging Ensembles: Intermediate

- Demonstrate, using music reading skills where appropriate, how the setting and formal characteristics of musical works contribute to understanding the context of the music in prepared or improvised performances. (MU:Pr4.2.E.8a)
- Demonstrate understanding and application of expressive qualities in a varied repertoire of music through prepared and improvised performances. (MU:Pr4.3.E.8a)
- Develop strategies to address technical challenges in a varied repertoire of music and evaluate their success using feedback from ensemble peers and other sources to refine performances. (MU:Pr5.1.E.8a)
- Demonstrate attention to technical accuracy and expressive qualities in prepared and improvised performances of a varied repertoire of music representing diverse cultures and styles . (MU:Pr6.1.E.8a)
- Demonstrate an understanding of the context of the music through prepared and improvised performances. (MU:Pr6.1.E.8b)

Madison Public Schools Profile of a Graduate

- Design: Engaging in a process to refine a product for an intended audience and purpose. (POG.2.2)
- Collective Intelligence: Working respectfully and responsibly with others, exchanging and evaluating ideas to achieve a common objective. (POG.3.1)

Transfer

Students will be able to independently use their learning to...
T1 Develop and refine techniques and skills through purposeful practice and application to become more fluent
T2 Make appropriate choices as a responsible, respectful participant within a communal artistic experience
T3 Capture the feeling or emotional response which an artistic piece elicits

Meaning

Understanding(s)

Students will understand that...
U1 the beat is the pulse of the music, and the subdivision of a beat is variable depending on the note/rest value.
U2 artists improve the quality of a performance through a cycle of deliberate practice and examination of results.
U3 practicing scales translates to better intonation, improved note reading fluency, and sound production.
U4 proper and regular maintenance of one's instrument (loosening/tightening bows, wiping rosin off strings and instrument, regular tuning, etc.) is essential to playing the instrument successfully.

Essential Question(s)

Students will keep considering...
Q1 How much freedom do I have to be creative and also work within established criteria?
Q2 What (skill/technique) am I focusing on? How do I get better at this? How do I know I'm making progress?
Q3 How does knowing more about the topic change or deepen my understanding?

Acquisition of Knowledge and Skill

Knowledge

Students will know...
K1 how to interpret various key signatures
K2 how bowing lanes affect their sound
K3 how to use their previously learned music theory to analyze and play through their sheet music.
K4 vocab: half step, whole step, crescendo, decrescendo, pianissimo, piano, mezzo piano, mezzo forte, forte, fortissimo, simple meter, compound meter

Skill(s)

Students will be skilled at...
S1 listening across the ensemble to hear how their part fits with others
S2 maintaining a common steady beat across the ensemble
S3 varied bow techniques as it applies to musical expressivity