

MUS 735

Discussion - Hitchcock, Chapter 9

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3.15.21

This is the era during which marching bands and wind ensembles became the domain of the secondary school. Post two examples of literature from the composers mentioned in the text that you have used or would use and explain why.

Aaron Copland is one of my favorite composers, and arguably one of the most iconic, recognizable American composers. I found a really interesting arrangement entitled *Themes from an Outdoor Overture*, arranged by James Curnow, which uses material from the original composition and reworks it to better suit an 8th or 9th grade concert band. This makes the music of *The Outdoor Overture* accessible to many of our middle or high school bands. It also gives us an opportunity to discuss the early emergence of Americanism in music: of the move away from abstract music and more toward a broader public appeal. I believe this arrangement would serve that purpose well.

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I discovered a very nice arrangement of *Sure On This Shining Night* by Samuel Barber, arranged by Richard Saucedo. This is the third song in the collection entitled "Four Songs," which was originally published in 1940. The beauty of the original work lies in the lyrical canonic lines which begin in the vocal parts and are echoed in the piano part. Saucedo recreates that effect masterfully in this arrangement, with the vocal lines being passed among many of the woodwind and brass instruments. Lyrical pieces like this are always more difficult for younger bands, as it takes so much more sensitivity and musicianship to be able to effectively perform them. I like this piece, because it would serve as an opportunity to discuss the continuation of the conservationist thought, and of appealing to the broader public with more simple, consonant melodies and harmonic treatment.

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