

Explore, Expand and Energize the Flute

Section

By Mary Karen Clardy

TMEA Clinic, Thursday, February 9, 2017 11:30 -

12:30

Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center/CC231 San Antonio, Texas

Assisted by University of North Texas Flutists

Dr. Daniel Pardo, Composer/Arranger

Jeong Hoon Lee, Eduardo Martinez, Eunkyung Oh, Jennifer Rodriguez,

Jennifer Willis

Explore the Flute Section!

Explore ensemble music from the Texas Prescribed Music List (PML) or any Grade 1-3 list as a warmup in section rehearsals. This builds confidence in students of various levels and ages, adding variety and fun to the regular rehearsal routine of audition, competition or band contest music. Rotate parts to give students the opportunity to play a different position in the section, developing critical listening and technical skills in the flute section. Enjoy listening to UNT Flutists explore this idea as we experiment in the Clinic Session today in works by Bach, Antonio Carlos Jobim and others.

Expand the Flute Section!

Often the most energetic students in the band, flutists respond to challenges with enthusiasm and creativity, so consider these tips to expand and energize the flute section beyond regular rehearsals for concerts and competitions. Choose standard flute ensemble music (trios, quartets, etc.), learning notes and rhythms in section rehearsals, then expand the music in the following way:

- 1) Add utility instruments such as piccolo, alto flute or bass flute to the original score to add texture, variety, and dynamic color. Piccolo and/or bass flute are non-transposing instruments, sounding an octave higher or lower, and will expand the ensemble sound with the additional range and colors. Alto flute

sounds a 4th lower than the printed score, and with computer programs designed

to transpose easily, the task is simple to add the alto color in the middle of the

ensemble. Rotate players on the various instruments to provide opportunity to

for every section member to experiment with the utility instruments.

- 2) Add percussion such as keyboard instruments (marimba, xylophone or vibraphone)

or latin percussion instruments (congas, maracas or bongos) to add audience appeal and energize the section for concerts or festival appearances. Many scores are easy to modify and/or expand, particularly Bach Chorales printed in score form, or simple

latin folk/popular music readily available for flute ensembles.

- 3) Experiment with amplification to add excitement in performance. Most high school programs use amplification on the marching field for solo features or other special effects, so experiment with bringing the sound equipment indoors to enhance and add texture to the flute section for performances in large, open spaces such as the foyer of an auditorium, in a gymnasium, or at a local shopping mall at holiday time.

Energize the Flute Section!

Performance opportunities for the expanded flute section include pre-concerts, senior centers, festivals or during recruiting season as a demonstration group for students and parents considering joining your band program. Community involvement builds support for your band program throughout the year and continues the visibility from Marching Season. The options are endless, so be creative. Enjoy listening to Daniel Pardo's composition, ***At The Drop of Light***, written for and premiered at today's clinic session. In the words of the composer,

“At the Drop of Light is a song designed for flute players to practice section tuning, develop confidence in group playing and have fun learning syncopated phrasing with a rhythm section.”

For more information, visit www.danielpardo.com

