

APPENDIX B: INSTRUMENTATION

There are many potential definitions for the instrumentation of the wind band. To provide maximum flexibility to the composer, this grant stipulates no limitation on size or variability of instrumentation. The following is for information only.

TYPICAL WIND INSTRUMENTATION

The following is the most popular wind band instrumentation. One player per part would constitute a “wind ensemble” while multiple players per part would constitute a “symphonic band.”

Flutes 1 & 2
Oboes 1 & 2
Bassoons 1 & 2
B-flat Clarinets 1, 2, & 3
B-flat Bass Clarinet
E-flat Alto Saxophones 1 & 2
B-flat Tenor Saxophone
E-flat Baritone Saxophone
B-flat Trumpets 1, 2, & 3
F Horns 1, 2, 3, & 4
B-flat Trombones 1 & 2
B-flat Bass Trombone
Euphonium
Tuba
Percussion (see below)

COMMON ADDITIONAL (BUT OPTIONAL) INSTRUMENTATION

These may be used at the composer’s discretion. If used, a SINGLE PLAYER would be considered normal in either “wind ensemble” or “symphonic band” configurations.

Piccolo (often used)
E-flat Clarinet (often used)
E-flat Alto Clarinet (often used, but not recommended)
English Horn (often used)
Contrabassoon (often used, but instrument not always available)
E-flat Contra Alto Clarinet (often used, but not with B-flat Contrabass)

B-flat Contrabass Clarinet (often used, but not with E-flat Contra Alto)
String Bass (often used)

PERCUSSION

The possibilities for percussion are endless, but it is requested that you try to avoid extremely exotic, rare, or hard-to-find instruments as many schools may not have access to such equipment. Some standard percussion instruments include: (* *indicates very common*)

Timpani (2, 3, or 4) *
Snare Drum *
Tenor Drum(s) (all sizes)
Crash Cymbals (all sizes) * Suspended Cymbals (all sizes) *
Orchestra Bells Chimes Xylophone Marimba Vibraphone
Crotales
Wood Blocks (all sizes) Gongs and/or Tam-Tams Bass Drum *
Bongo & Conga Drums

ORCHESTRAL WINDS

There are a few well-known and important works for wind band based on the instrumentation of the wind section as extracted from the symphony orchestra. Typically this combination would be used with one player per part.

2 Flutes
2 Oboes
2 Clarinets (B-flat or A)
2 Bassoons
2 Trumpets (B-flat or C)
4 F Horns
2 Tenor Trombones plus 1 Bass Trombone
1 Tuba

The following additions or adjustments are common when utilizing the “orchestral winds” instrumentation:

Piccolo (often doubled into Flute 1 or 2 for short passages, but may also be an extra player for longer passages)

English horn (often doubled into Oboe 2 for short passages, but may also be an extra player for longer passages)

B-flat Bass Clarinet (often doubled into Clarinet 2 for short passages, but may also be an extra player for longer passages)

Contrabassoon (often doubled into Bassoon 2 for short passages, but may also be an extra player for longer passages)

Percussion (with timpani being the most common, but any instrument listed previously is possible)

The following additions are less common, but possible:

Extra Clarinets (B-flat or A) for a total of three or four

Extra Trumpets (B-flat or C) for a total of three or four

B-flat Contrabass Clarinet (rare, but possible)

Euphonium (rare, but possible)

Saxophone(s) (rare, but possible with soprano or alto being most common, tenor and baritone less common)

PIANO, CELESTE AND/OR HARP

It is possible to include piano, celeste and/or harp in any of the suggested instrumentations above with piano being much more common than harp or celesta.

If used, it is requested that the piano, celeste or harp be considered as a unique voice among the wind and percussion instruments. These instruments are less effective when used simply to reinforce other instruments.

Also be aware that celeste or harp may not be available at some schools.