

# Arranging For The Concert Band By Frank Erickson

Arranging For The Concert Band By Frank Erickson Arranging for the Concert Band A Guide to the Art of Transformation by Frank Erickson This blog post delves into the world of concert band arranging exploring the techniques challenges and ethical considerations involved in adapting music for this unique ensemble It examines current trends in the field while providing insights into the history and evolution of concert band arrangements Concert band arranging transcription orchestration instrumentation musical style ethics copyright plagiarism contemporary trends historical perspective Arranging for the concert band is a fascinating and complex art form that involves adapting existing music for a specific instrumentation This process requires a deep understanding of both the original piece and the capabilities of the band It encompasses both the technical aspects of orchestration and the artistic considerations of maintaining the essence and spirit of the source material This blog post provides a comprehensive overview of the process including its history current trends and ethical considerations

### Analysis of Current Trends

The field of concert band arranging is constantly evolving reflecting changes in musical tastes technological advancements and the everchanging landscape of the concert band itself

- 1 The Rise of Contemporary and Diverse Repertoire Traditionally concert band arrangements have leaned heavily on classical and romantic repertoire However a surge in interest in contemporary and diverse music has led to an increased demand for arrangements of works by contemporary composers including film scores popular music and even video game soundtracks This trend reflects a desire for wider accessibility and a more diverse range of listening experiences within the concert band setting
- 2 The Influence of Technology Digital audio workstations DAWs and notation software have revolutionized the arranging process providing composers with unprecedented tools for creating and manipulating scores
- 2 These advancements offer increased flexibility allowing for more precise control over individual instrument parts and facilitating the creation of complex arrangements with ease Furthermore the accessibility of these technologies has empowered amateur arrangers leading to a more diverse and vibrant landscape of concert band arrangements
- 3 The Growth of Hybrid Arrangements The traditional distinction between

orchestral and band arrangements is blurring as composers explore the unique sonic possibilities of combining orchestral instruments with the traditional wind and percussion instruments of the concert band. This hybrid approach allows for a wider range of textures and dynamics, blurring the lines between the two worlds and creating a new and exciting sonic palette for the concert band.

### Discussion of Ethical Considerations

Arranging for the concert band while a creative endeavor raises several ethical considerations.

1. **Copyright and Permission** Arranging existing music requires obtaining proper permission from the copyright holder. This is essential for both legal and ethical reasons. It ensures that composers are appropriately compensated for their work and it respects the intellectual property rights of creators.
2. **Plagiarism and Authenticity** Arrangers must be mindful of avoiding plagiarism and ensuring the authenticity of their arrangements. While adapting music for a different instrumentation is inherent in the arranging process, it's crucial to maintain the spirit and essence of the original work. Straying too far from the original composition can distort the composer's intent and ultimately create an ethically questionable arrangement.
3. **Respect for the Original Composers' Vision** Arranging should not be viewed as a means of imposing one's own artistic vision on the original composition. Instead, arrangers should strive to understand and respect the composer's intentions while adapting the music to the specific needs and capabilities of the concert band. This includes carefully considering factors like the original instrumentation, tempo, dynamics, and musical style.
4. **Transparency and Acknowledgement** It is ethical practice to be transparent about the source material and the arranger's role in creating the arrangement. This can be done by providing clear information on the program notes, acknowledging the original composer and stating the arranger's name alongside the title of the piece.

### The Arranging Process: A Step-by-Step Guide

Arranging for the concert band involves a systematic approach that balances technical expertise with artistic intuition. Here's a breakdown of the key steps:

1. **Select a Piece** The first step is choosing a piece that you're passionate about and that you believe will translate well to the concert band. Consider the musical style, instrumentation, and overall complexity of the piece.
2. **Analyze the Original Score** Thoroughly analyze the original score, paying close attention to the melody, harmony, rhythm, and instrumentation. Identify key elements and musical ideas that need to be preserved in the arrangement.
3. **Consider the Capabilities of the Concert Band** Understand the capabilities of the instruments in the concert band and the typical ranges and techniques employed by each section. Ensure the arrangement utilizes the instruments effectively and

avoids writing parts that are beyond their abilities 4 Orchestrate the Music This is the core of the arranging process where you distribute the musical material across the different instruments in the concert band Consider factors like timbre balance and the overall sonic effect you want to achieve 5 Rehearse and Revise Rehearse the arrangement with the concert band and carefully listen for any sections that need to be adjusted This may involve making changes to the orchestration dynamics or overall flow of the music 6 Finalize and Publish Once you are satisfied with the final arrangement you can create a clean score and parts for the band members You can then publish the arrangement either through a publishing house or independently 4 Conclusion Arranging for the concert band is a rewarding and challenging art form that requires a blend of technical skill artistic sensitivity and a deep understanding of music As the field continues to evolve the demand for skilled and ethical arrangers will only grow By understanding the nuances of arranging the ethical considerations involved and the evolving trends composers and arrangers can contribute to the rich and diverse legacy of concert band music

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arranging for the concert band and the separately available workbook are intended to

introduce students to basic techniques of arranging for the concert band arranging can be divided into two separate processes the first deals with scoring and transcribing scoring is concerned with such things as voicing doubling balance and color the term scoring also means the actual writing of notes on the score paper transcribing is scoring music written for one kind of musical instrument or group say a piano or orchestra for a different kind of group this text deals with those matters the second part of arranging is the more creative process of writing introductions modulations endings background figures and so on

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