



# How Do I Choose?

Selecting the Right Piece to Study and Perform

# When selecting a piece of music to study there are three main areas you must consider...

- Musical Elements
  - Tone, Notes, Intonation, Rhythm, Tempo
- Musical Sensitivity
  - Dynamics, Articulation, Ornamentation, Interpretation
- Musical Complexity
  - Level of difficulty in a particular area such as key, counterpoint, syncopation, etc.

# Your selected piece should also be of GOOD QUALITY:

- While our perceptions of quality in music may differ, there are some guidelines to assist in your selection:
  - Choose a piece that is musically interesting. Find a piece that has variety and allows you to make musical decisions about the performance.
  - Strive to find music that takes the listener on a journey (tells a story, creates tension or anticipation, allows for emotional connections)
  - Consider the original composer/songwriter and their status in the music community (not the media). While this is not always necessary, it may be a guide as to whether or not other musicians respect the work and in turn whether it is of “good quality”.
  - Choose a piece you enjoy so you will not be bored of studying it after a short amount of time.

# Your selected piece should also be CHALLENGING:

- It takes maturity to choose something difficult when it is “easier” to choose something at or below your level of ability. True growth as a musician comes when we push ourselves to achieve something more. This can be a difficult aspect to apply honestly. Consider the following to help you:
  - Will I learn something new from learning this piece? If so, what?
  - Will this piece showcase my range or is it too basic to highlight my abilities?
  - What opportunities for musical expression does this piece provide? Do I get to apply my own interpretation?
  - Is the time I have to learn and prepare it sufficient or is it too difficult for the time provided?

# Repertoire Selection Checklist:

- When you have a piece of music in mind, use this checklist to see if it matches your requirements. A piece doesn't need to have ALL of these things but if it meets little to no requirements under one category, it may not be appropriate for study during class time.
- This checklist is linked on the wikispace for you to print and use.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Repertoire Selection Checklist:**

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_ COMPOSER: \_\_\_\_\_

MUSICAL ELEMENTS - This piece provides interest in the following areas:

<input type="checkbox"/> Tone	<input type="checkbox"/> Rhythm
<input type="checkbox"/> Notes	<input type="checkbox"/> Tempo
<input type="checkbox"/> Intonation	

MUSICAL SENSITIVITY - This piece provides opportunity for:

<input type="checkbox"/> Dynamics	<input type="checkbox"/> My own Musical
<input type="checkbox"/> Articulation	Interpretation
<input type="checkbox"/> Ornamentation	

MUSICAL QUALITY:

- ☐ This piece takes the listener on a musical journey
- ☐ The composer/songwriter is well known and respected
- ☐ I enjoy this piece

MUSICALLY CHALLENGING:

- ☐ I will learn something new from this piece
- ☐ This piece showcases my range and abilities
- ☐ I have enough time to prepare this piece