Maximizing Musicianship Through Flexibility 2021 VMEA Professional Development Conference • November 20, 2021

Dr. Brian Coffill, D.M.A.

Director of Instrumental Ensembles, Randolph Macon College <u>briancoffill@rmc.edu</u> · <u>R-MC Website/Bio</u> · <u>Personal Website</u> Presentation resources available for download via <u>briancoffill.com/vmea21</u>

Why Flex?

- Instrumentation/voicing &/or ability challenges
- You can elicit creativity in flexibility!
 - Creativity via new genres/ensembles
 - Creativity via unexpected pairings
 - Creativity via student ownership & input

Flexible Music: Repertoire That Meets (& Challenges) Our Ensembles

- Flexible Repertoire Examples
 - Bespoke
 - Flex (Choirs/"Tone Strands")
 - Various Composers, arr. Steve Danyew
 - Percy Grainger, Chosen Gems for Winds series, ex: <u>Antonio de Cabezon</u>, <u>Prelude in the Dorian Mode</u>, arr. Grainger
 - Flex w/Ability Levels
 - <u>Allison Loggins-Hull, The Loop</u>
 - Alex Shapiro, Passages
 - Open Scoring/Aleatoric/Improvisatory/Experimental
 - <u>Samuel Vriezen, Ensemble</u>
 - Steve Reich, In C

How To Flex Creatively

- Flexible repertoire (and flex rep. "best practices") can be used in any ensemble!
- Emphasis moves from "What's on the page?" to "How can we add musical value?"
- Flex artistically by creating creative choices for your students (tone colors/combinations of voices, etc.
- Consider looking at your existing repertoire with a "flexible" eye
- Move "beyond the list" to program new voices

Resources & Links:

- <u>Easyvirtualchoir.com</u>
- Publishers:
 - <u>Murphy Music Flex Collection</u>
 - <u>JW Pepper Flex Collection</u>
 - <u>Classics Revisited Flex Collection</u>
- Transcription Source Material:
 - Living composers just ask them!
 - o <u>IMSLP</u>
 - o <u>ChoralWiki</u>

- Programming Beyond The List:
 - <u>...And We Were Heard</u>
 - Band Directors Inclusion Toolkit
 - <u>Boulanger Initiative</u>
 - DBR Hip-Hop Studies & Etudes
 - Diversify The Stand
 - Institute for Composer Diversity
 - Music by Black Composers



