Curriculum Exemplar for Music: Choral Concert Performance Preparation

## **Title of Unit: Choral Concert Performance Preparation**

Repertoire:

Simple Gifts (Shaker Song). Adapted by Aaron Copland, Transcribed for Chorus by Irving Fine. Boosey & Hawkes, 1952.

Level: NYSSMA Level 2 (New York State School Music Association: NYSSMA Manual, Edition 30, 2012.)

Discipline: Treble Chorus

Timeframe: 13 weeks (approximately 20 partial rehearsals)

Objective: Students will perform this choral composition in an ensemble setting.

By reading and performing this selection, students will exhibit level appropriate reading, vocal technique, ensemble practice, critical listening skills, as well as knowledge of historical, cultural, and stylistic connections. This exemplar is intended to expand students' prior knowledge and skills from Beginner level choral experience, and Early Childhood, Elementary and Intermediate classroom music instruction. Through regular rehearsal, teacher feedback, and student self/peer assessment, there will be a clear growth and refinement of student performance.

**Summative Assessment:** Concert Performance

Assessment may include recording to be evaluated by students, teachers, and/or administrators in addition to live performance evaluation.

## **Sequential Guide Tasks**:

Technique: In the process of performing this piece, students will develop their technical ability to:

- Read and follow own part within a 2-part score
- Use correct mouth shape for specific vowels
- Use correct and uniform vowels for the text
- Sing with appropriate diction focusing on mindful use of tongue, lips and teeth for consonants
- Connect inhalation and air stream with phrase length
- Recognize and sing correct phrases
- Sing in tune
- Sing individual parts

- Sing accurate pitches in relation to other voice parts
- Use appropriate voice placement (chest vs. head)
- Sing collaboratively with accompanist

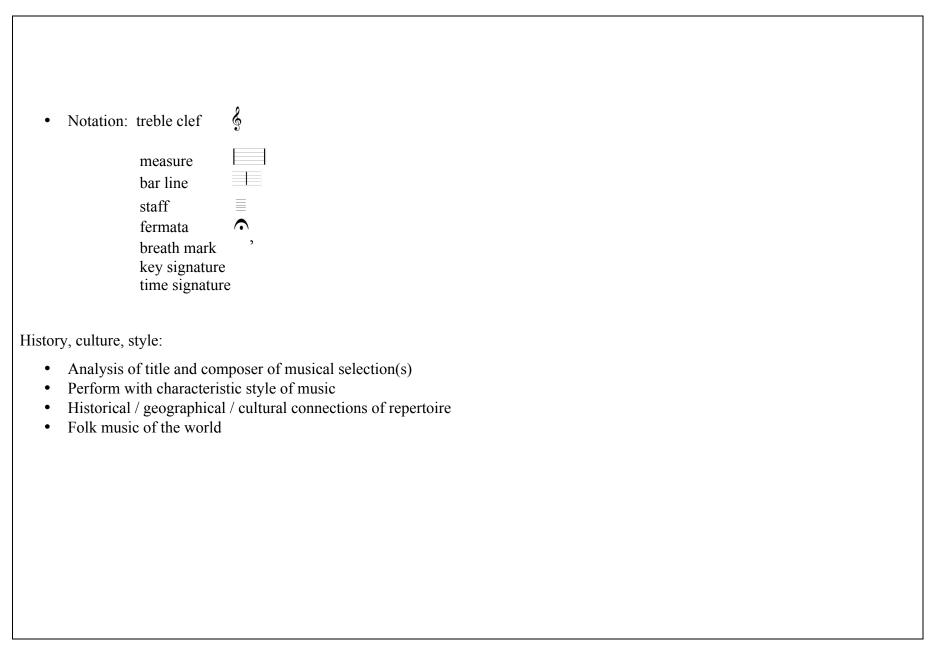
## Musicianship:

- Sing expressively with the voice and the face
- Project mood, interpreting the song
- Follow gestures of the conductor, including attacks and releases
- Balance between parts
- Blend within section
- Employ self awareness and assessment of technique and pitch
- Connect concert etiquette and performance practice
- Demonstrate appropriate ensemble decorum
- Continue rehearsal routine
- Perform Very Easy NYSSMA Level 2 ensemble literature
- Distinguish between soprano and alto (Part I & Part II)

## Listening:

- Listen to a variety of recordings, including choral and instrumental literature
- Distinguish between good and poor tone
- Listen to other voices and voice parts, while singing
- Blend own voice to balance dynamic level, within and among sections
- Perform with appropriate intonation and self monitoring skills
- Self assess using musical terminology
- Employ teacher modeling
- Echo tonal patterns and rhythms
- Listen to and critique audio and/or video recordings of ensemble performances

Musi	ical elements	and notation:
•	Tonality: E	Explore Major tonality
•	Rhythm:	speak, count and/or tap rhythm / part
		$\frac{2}{4}$
		o =
		J -
		T -
		<b>→</b> }
•	Timbre: ir	ntroduction to appropriate singing voice - introductions and interludes of accompaniment
•	Harmony:	descant - increased rhythmic independence
•	Dynamics:	
		mf
		crescendo
		decrescendo



	Sequential Lesson Plan					
Week	Goals & Objectives	Learning Activities	Formative Assessments	Common Core Connections		
1	Read and follow own part within a 2-part score  Use correct mouth shape for specific vowels  Use correct and uniform vowels for the text  Sing with appropriate diction –	As the students enter the room, a full performance recording of "Simple Gifts" is played.  As part of the choral warm-ups, students perform exercises focused on vowel formation, diction, tone and breath control.  Students learn the main melody of "Simple Gifts" by rote, on a neutral syllable.	Performance assessment of ensemble pitch, rhythm accuracy and appropriate vowel formation and tone.	Reading for Information: Questions re: details of text through critical listening and performance characteristics  Reading Foundational Skill: Fluency through music reading		
	focusing on mindful use of tongue, lips and teeth for consonants  Connect inhalation and air stream with phrase length	Students listen to the recording of "Simple Gifts" while following along with their music. Discuss as a class the style of the music, and performance characteristics demonstrated on the recording.	Assessment locating title, composer, time signature and key	Phonological awareness through vowel formation and diction		
	Sing in tune	Students are asked to look at their music and answer questions about the following: title, composer, time signature, and key signature.	signature.	Phonics and word recognition by speaking the lyrics rhythmically		
	Continue rehearsal routine  Listen to a variety of recordings, including choral and instrumental literature  Employ teacher modeling  Echo tonal patterns and rhythms  Explore major tonality	Review definitions and locations in the vocal score as necessary.  Students are asked to look at their music and speak the soprano line in rhythm through measure 11. Identify note names and values for this section of the piece: sixteenth, eighth, quarter and half. Students add pitch and sing the soprano line through measure 11.		Speaking & Listening: Ask and answer questions to clarify comprehension of musical style and performance characteristics  Engage in collaborative discussions concerning title, composer, time signature, key signature		

and style. Students identify the appropriate vowel shape Language: Identify Rhythm: speak, count and/or tap for the following words: gift, come, down, be, rhythm / part connections between right/delight. Students sing the soprano line words & their use through 2 4 through measure 11 with correct vowel musical vocabulary formation, pitch, and rhythm. The teacher will adjust vowel formation as necessary to create a Counting & Cardinality: uniform and blended choral sound. Know number names and counting sequence for the Students sing the first 11 measures of the piece rhythmic values of the a capella and with piano accompaniment. song. **Operations & Algebraic** Thinking: Generate and analyze patterns through Timbre: introduction to performance of soprano appropriate singing voice line rhythm Tempo: ritardando Number & Operations -Fractions: Understand fraction Notation: treble clef equivalents through performance of rhythmic measure values. bar line staff Measurement & Data: key signature Work with time through time signature accurate rhythmic performance Analysis of title and composer of musical selection(s)

	Perform with characteristic style of music			
2	2	As the students enter the room, a full performance recording of "Simple Gifts" is played.  As part of the choral warm-ups, students perform exercises focused on vowel formation, diction, tone and breath control.  We review the vocal and choral skills and techniques learned in week 1.  Students are asked to locate and look at the alto line from the beginning of the piece through measure 11. Students make comparisons between the alto and soprano lines - is it lower or higher, stepwise or skipping motion between notes, same or different rhythms, are there any sections of unison, etc.  Students speak the alto line through measure 11, reviewing note names and values used in this section. Students learn the pitches for the alto line through measure 11, singing it a capella and with piano accompaniment.	In addition week one, add:  Assessment for retention of week 1 skills and knowledge.  Ensemble assessment of part independence	In addition to week one, add:  Reading Foundational Skills: Print concepts through reading music notation and following one's own part  Speaking & Listening: Evaluate speaker's point of view by analyzing the musical composition  Measurement & Data: Represent and interpret data by identifying musical intervals  Ratio & Proportional Relationships: Ratio concepts and use of reasoning to solve problems through the analysis of the linear and vertical arrangement of
		alto) together with voice parts played through measure 11.		rhythmic relationships.

3	In addition to waste 1 2 add.	As the students enter the ream a full	In addition to	<i>In addition to weeks 1–2.</i>
3	In addition to weeks 1–2, add:	As the students enter the room, a full		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
		performance recording of "Simple Gifts" is	weeks 1–2,	add:
	Sing collaboratively with	played.	add:	
	accompanist			Reading For
		As part of the choral warm-ups, students	Sectional	Information:
	Employ self awareness in	perform exercises focused on vowel formation,	assessment	Engage in group reading
	assessment of technique and pitch	diction, tone and breath control.	for part	for purpose and
		,	retention	understanding by singing
	Blend within section	Students sing their assigned part from measure	without piano	with others.
	Biend within section		-	with others.
	B 6 :4	1 through 11 with piano accompaniment.	accompani-	
	Perform with appropriate		ment	
	intonation and self monitoring	Have students speak measures 13 through 22 on		
	skills	their own part. Identify locations where		
		rhythms for each vocal part are slightly		
	Harmony – increased rhythmic	different. Have each section learn their own		
	independence	voice part, focusing on the soprano divisi in		
		measures 13 & 14. Put soprano and alto parts		
	Associate vowel formation with	together for measures 13 through 22.		
		together for measures 13 through 22.		
	tone quality			
		Review vowel formation for text in measures		
		13 through 22. Have students identify correct		
		vowel sounds for each word in this section.		
		Have sopranos and altos sing their parts		
		separately to demonstrate appropriate vowel		
		formation. The teacher will adjust vowel		
		formation as necessary to create a uniform and		
		blended choral sound.		
		orenaca chorar sound.		
		Cine de antina nice Con de la con-		
		Sing the entire piece from the beginning		
		through measure 22, focusing on correct pitch,		
		rhythm, vowel shape, and vocal tone, both		
		a capella and with piano accompaniment.		

4	In addition to weeks 1–3, add:  Demonstrate ensemble decorum	As the students enter the room, a full performance recording of "Simple Gifts" is played.	In addition to weeks 1–3, add:	In addition to weeks 1–3, add:  Reading For Information:
	Harmony: descant  Compare and contrast various aspects of performance literature	As part of the choral warm-ups, students perform exercises focused on vowel formation, diction, and breath control.  We review the vocal and choral skills and techniques learned in weeks 1 through 3.	Assessment of small groups within sections for retention.	Describing overall structure of event, ideas, concepts or information by analysis of musical form.
		Students look at measures 23 through the end of the piece, identifying which vocal part has the melody. Sing the melody as it is written between the soprano and alto parts to show how it moves back and forth.		Geometry: Identifying and describing shapes via analysis of melodic contour.
		Students compare and contrast the soprano and alto parts from measure 23 through the end of the piece - what is the same and what is different about the two musical lines?		
		All students speak the soprano line from measure 23 through the end of the piece. Students sing the soprano line with correct pitch and rhythm.		
		Sing the entire piece from the beginning with piano accompaniment, having students sing the soprano line only from measure 23 through the end. The teacher will stop to fix and review and problem areas noticed when running the piece.		

	In addition to weeks 1–4, add: Perform NYSSMA Level 2	As the students enter the room, a full performance recording of "Simple Gifts" is played.	In addition to weeks 1–4, add:	In addition to weeks 1–4, add:
] 1 ] 1	Introductions and interludes of accompaniment	As part of the choral warm-ups, students perform exercises focused on vowel formation, diction, and breath control.  We review the vocal and choral skills and techniques learned in weeks 1 through 4.  Students read the alto line in rhythm from measure 23 to the end. Students sing the alto line with correct pitch and rhythm.  Students identify appropriate vowel shapes for the text from measures 23 to the end, and apply vowel shapes to their performance. The teacher will adjust vowel formation as necessary to create a uniform and blended choral sound.  Students sing soprano and alto parts together from measures 23 to the end. To indicate what section has the melody, students could stand or raise their hand to show that they are currently performing the melody line.  Students sing the entire piece with piano accompaniment, focusing on correct pitch, rhythm, tone and vowel formation.	Assessment of small groups from each section singing in harmony for part independence.	Speaking & Listening: Initiate and participate effectively in collaborative work through critical listening through performance in the ensemble setting.

6	As per weeks 1–5, with	As the students enter the room, the	In addition to	<i>In addition to 1–5, add:</i>
	continued emphasis on part	accompaniment for "Simple Gifts" is played,	1–5, add:	•
	independence and balance both	either at the piano or as a recording.	1-5, uuu.	Writing:
	a cappella and with piano	ethici at the plano of as a recording.	Assessment of	Draw evidence from text
	accompaniment	As part of the choral warm-ups, students	full	for analysis by labeling
	ассотранітені	perform exercises focused on vowel formation,	ensemble's	pitches with
		1 1		corresponding solfege
		diction, tone and breath control.	performance of the entire	syllables.
		W		
		We review the vocal and choral skills and	piece.	
		techniques learned in weeks 1 through 5 that		
		have resulted in the students' ability to perform	Assess	
		this selection with pitch and rhythmic accuracy.	individual	
			performance	
		Students label solfege syllables for their	for part	
		individual voice part from measure 1 through	retention.	
		11. Review voice parts as a class, singing each		
		part on solfege from the beginning through		
		measure 11.		
		Students perform the entire piece with piano		
		accompaniment, listening for correct pitch,		
		rhythm, and vowel shape.		

7	As per weeks 1–6, with continued emphasis on part independence	As the students enter the room, the accompaniment for "Simple Gifts" is played,	In addition to weeks 1–6,	In addition to weeks 1–6, add:
	and balance both a cappella and with piano accompaniment	either at the piano or as a recording.	add:	Reading For Literature:
		As part of the choral warm-ups, students	Assessment	Overall structure of story
	Sing a cappella in multiple parts	perform exercises focused on vowel formation, diction, and breath control.	for part independence in small	through motivic development
		We review the vocal and choral skills and techniques learned in weeks 1 through 6 that have resulted in the students' ability to perform this selection with pitch and rhythmic accuracy.	groups.	
		Students label solfege syllables for their individual voice part in their music from measure 13 through 22. Each voice part sings their vocal line on solfege syllables from measure 13 through 22.		
		Students sing the entire piece in two parts, both a capella or with voice parts, while the teacher listens for problem areas to isolate and review.		
		Review as a class any problem areas discovered when running the piece, supporting with voice parts played on the piano. Have students solidify their assigned voice part through isolation and repetition of specific sections or measures.		
		Students sing the entire piece with piano accompaniment with correct rhythm, pitch, tone, vowel shape, and blend.		

8	<i>In addition to weeks 1–7, add:</i>	As the students enter the room, the	In addition to	<i>In addition to weeks 1–7,</i>
	in addition to weeks 1 /, add.	accompaniment for "Simple Gifts" is played,	weeks 1–7,	add:
	Follow gestures of the conductor,	either at the piano or as a recording.	add:	uuu.
	including attacks and releases	cities at the plane of as a recording.	uuu.	Reading For
	merading attacks and releases	As part of the choral warm-ups, students	Assess group	Information:
	Blend own voice to balance	perform a hissing sound that is pulsed in	performance	Meaning of domain-
	dynamic level within and among	response to the conductor's gestures. The	of dynamics	specific words through
	sections.	conductor varies the size of the right hand	as indicated	music expressive
	sections.	conduction varies the size of the right hand conducting pattern and raises and lowers the	while	markings.
	Dynamics up of grassands	left hand to reinforce changes in dynamics, to	following	markings.
	Dynamics: <i>mp</i> , <i>mf</i> , crescendo, decrescendo	which the students respond accordingly by	conductor's	Language:
	decrescendo	1 0, 1		
	Use breath to create various	hissing louder or softer.	gestures	Correct use for frequently confused words and
	dynamics	We review the vocal and choral skills and		clarification of misused
	dynamics	techniques learned in weeks 1–7 that have		
	Ctry doubte monty group swith moneil	<u> </u>		vocabulary, such as the
	Students mark score with pencil	resulted in the students' ability to perform this selection with pitch and rhythmic accuracy.		musical terms high versus low, soft versus loud and
	for dynamics, phrasing, tempo with teacher direction	selection with pitch and mythinic accuracy.		fast versus slow.
	with teacher direction	Students are asked to look at their music with a		last versus slow.
				A aguira and usa damain
		pencil ready to make score markings.		Acquire and use domain specific words and
		Students are asked to identify the dynamic		
		Students are asked to identify the dynamic		phrases such as dynamic
		markings of the piece, in the order in which they occur, to circle them, and to provide both		vocabulary in
		1		performance.
		the English and Italian names. Vocabulary will include:		
		mezzo-piano / medium soft		
		forte / loud		
		decrescendo / gradually get softer		
		piano / soft		
		C4-1-4		
		Students will perform the selection with the		
		dynamics as indicated and circled, with		
		reinforcement from the conductor's gestures.		

		The teacher will stop to reinforce dynamic contrasts or changes on an as-needed basis.  This reinforcement may include bending ones knees for softer sections and standing taller for louder sections.		
9	In addition to weeks 1–8, add:  Notation: fermata, legato	As the students enter the room, the accompaniment for "Simple Gifts" is played, either at the piano or as a recording.	In addition to weeks 1–8, add:	In addition to weeks 1–8, add:  Reading For Literature:
	Tempo: ritardando	As part of the choral warm-ups, students perform a hissing sound that is pulsed in response to the conductor's gestures. The conductor varies the speed of the right hand conducting pattern to create changes in tempo, to which the students respond accordingly by hissing faster or slower.  We review the vocal and choral skills and techniques learned in weeks 1–8 that have resulted in the students' ability to perform this selection with pitch and rhythmic accuracy and dynamics as written.  Students are asked to look at their music with a pencil ready to make score markings.  Students are asked to identify the tempo markings of the piece, in the order in which they occur, to circle them, and to provide both their English and Italian names. Vocabulary will include:  Legato / smoothly Fermata / hold until the conductor indicates	Written assessment of tempo, dynamics, and other musical notation symbols used prior to week 9.	Compare and contrast two or more versions of a story, as students respond to multiple recording of this song.

		to continue Ritardando / hold back a trifle  Students will perform the selection with the tempos as indicated and circled, with reinforcement from the conductor's gestures.  The teacher will stop to reinforce tempo changes on an as-needed basis. Reinforcement may include stepping the rhythm of the sung notes in place or in movement around the room.		
10	In addition to weeks 1–9, add:  Connect inhalation and air stream with phrasing  Recognize and sing correct phrases  Notation: breath mark, accent	As the students enter the room, the accompaniment for "Simple Gifts" is played, either at the piano or as a recording.  As part of the choral warm-ups, students perform a hissing sound that is pulsed in response to the conductor's gestures. The conductor includes varied pauses, breaths and articulations as indicated with both the conducting pattern and the left hand, to which the students respond accordingly by hissing with pauses, breaths and accents.  We review the vocal and choral skills and techniques learned in weeks 1–9 that have resulted in the students' ability to perform this selection with pitch and rhythmic accuracy and dynamics and tempos as marked in the score.  Students are asked to look at their music with a pencil ready to make score markings.	In addition to weeks 1–9, add:  Assess through performance for appropriate phrasing, through use of breaths and accents  Written assessment of knowledge of breath and articulation markings.	In addition to weeks 1–9, add:  Language: Use nuance in word meanings as related to musical expressive markings.

		Students are asked to identify the breath and articulation markings in the piece in the order in which they occur, to circle them. Vocabulary will include:  breath mark accent		
		Students will perform the selection with the accents and breaths as indicated and circled, with reinforcement from the conductor's gestures.		
		The teacher will stop to reinforce accents and breaths on an as-needed basis. Students may be asked to use arching hand gestures or finger points, to reinforce accents and breaths.		
11	In addition to weeks 1–10, add:  Self assess using musical	As the students enter the room, the accompaniment for "Simple Gifts" is played, either at the piano or as a recording.	In addition to weeks 1–10, add:	In addition to weeks 1–10, add:
	terminology	ettier at the plane of as a recording.	auu.	Measurement & Data:
		As part of the choral warm-ups, students	Assess	Measure lengths of
	Determine appropriate locations in	perform a hissing sound that is pulsed in	student	musical phrases.
	musical phrase to take a breath	response to the conductor's gestures. The conductor varies the nature of the conducting	knowledge of phrasing	
		pattern and arcs the left hand to indicate	concepts,	
		phrases, to which the students respond	through group	
		accordingly by hissing in connected phrases.	discussion.	
		We review the vocal and choral skills and	In	
		techniques learned in weeks 1–10 that have	performance,	
		resulted in the students' ability to perform this	assess student	
		selection with pitch and rhythmic accuracy and	retention of	
		dynamics, tempos, and articulations as written	singing	

		Students are asked to look at their music with a pencil ready to make score markings.  Students are asked how one decides where to breathe in a piece of music. They are led to respond to include the following:  breath markings provided by the composer rests in the music punctuation in the text, including commas periods  As a group, the class analyzes the score for phrase breaks. Each student writes additional breath markings into their score to indicate where breaths will occur. The teacher also instructs the students to draw legato, curved lines each phrase to indicate that it is to be sung	appropriate musical phrases, in response to conductor gestures and prior analysis.	
		smoothly and without an interrupting breath.  Students will perform the selection with the phrasing as indicated and circled, with reinforcement from the conductor's gestures.  The teacher will stop to reinforce phrasing on an as-needed basis. Reinforcement may include arching hand gestures and / or walking movements that correspond with the phrases.		
12	In addition to weeks 1–11, add:  Sing expressively with the voice and the face	As the students enter the room, the accompaniment for "Simple Gifts" is played, either at the piano or as a recording.	In addition to weeks 1–11, add:	In addition to weeks 1–11, add:  Reading For Literature:

	As part of the choral warm-ups, students	Student	Recount stories, fables,
Project mood interpreting the song	perform a hissing sound that is pulsed in	evaluation of	etc. through music lyrics
	response to the conductor's gestures. The	ensemble	analysis.
Historical, geographical, cultural	conductor displays a variety of faces as the	performance,	
connections of repertoire	tempo and dynamics of the hiss are altered,	using	Make connections
	representing basic emotions such as happiness	appropriate	between written text and
Folk music of the world	and sadness.	and effective	other perspectives by
		facial	paraphrasing lyrics.
	We review the vocal and choral skills and	expression,	
	techniques learned in weeks 1–11 that have	and body	Language:
	resulted in the students' ability to perform this	language to	Distinguish shades of
	selection with pitch and rhythmic accuracy,	express the	meaning as students
	dynamics, tempos, articulations, and phrasing	meaning of	examine communicating
	as written.	the text.	the meaning of the song
			beyond their singing.
	Students are asked to read the text of the music		
	silently to themselves.		
	Students are asked to summarize the overall		
	meaning of the song's text.		
	~		
	Students are asked to provide an equivalent		
	statement for each phrase of the text in their		
	own words.		
	Students are asked to identify the story that they		
	are telling with this song, and the mood of the		
	storyteller.		
	Ct. d. ut		
	Students are asked how they can communicate		
	the mood and meaning of the song beyond their		
	singing, and are led to identify the use of facial		
	expression and body language as expressive		
	tools.		

		The teacher leads the students in a performance of the song, mirroring the appropriate body language and facial expression.  The teacher will stop to reinforce expression on an as-needed basis. This may include individual students watching the group and providing feedback, students singing to one another in pairs, or video recording the group and playing it back for students to see the overall group expression.		
13	In addition to weeks 1–12, add:  Connect concert etiquette and performance practice	As the students enter the room, the accompaniment for "Simple Gifts" is played, either at the piano or as a recording.	In addition to weeks 1–12, add:	In addition to weeks 1–12, add: Writing:
	Demonstrate appropriate ensemble decorum  Listen to and critique audio and / or video recordings of ensemble performance	Students are placed in concert standing order on the choral risers.  We review the vocal and choral skills and techniques learned in weeks 1–12 that have resulted in the students' ability to perform this selection with pitch and rhythmic accuracy,	Student assessment of concert recording both verbally and in writing.	Create text in response to literary work as students critically respond to their performance.  Write opinion-supporting point of view through
		dynamics, tempos, articulations, and phrasing as written with appropriate expression.	Individual student performance of their part.	critical responses and written critiques of one's own musical performance.