

LEVEL 1B – Conductor Notes – Debra Mattera

Don't let level 1B fool you...while the treble/bass layout is basic, students WILL BE challenged with dynamics, accidentals, speed and especially counting! AND... on top of all that EVERYONE KNOWS OUR SONGS!!! Which means... we must be prepared--counting is critical! I personally chose this level because of the songs, they are awesome! The audience will love them, and I hope the students will also. I am looking forward to working together for our performance!

There is a lot of information listed below, mostly because our songs are familiar to the audience. These notes are designed to help the students master the songs and do their very best at our performance.

Please take the time to read ALL the instructions. If you have any questions, please check with your teacher for clarification. **Performance order changed from the Literature List.**

General Information: (Songs are listed below in performance order)

- Please write the student's name and phone number on the INSIDE cover of both books. (Please do not write on the front cover as that may be visible to the audience)
- **Students MUST practice with a metronome—every day—every time-- to be sure we will all play or not play at the correct time! Aside from notes, counting will be the biggest issue.**
- All our songs have the first measure of every line numbered, please be sure to know where these numbers are, we will refer to them during practice. If you desire, you can number all the measures.
- Students should be able to stop and start from any point in the music.
- Eyes should be on the conductor as much as possible, especially for beginnings and endings.
- Please circle ALL dynamic marks, so they are learned from the beginning and not added after the fact. Each song tells a story, the dynamics will enhance the story.
- Search YouTube performances, so students can hear the music with both parts
 - Maple Leaf Rag—very slow: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reMwJtjKNPU>
 - Theme from Symphony No. 5: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/WeRpLrXXFrY>
 - Wipe Out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALwRQ7PbfeE>
 - This Land Is Your Land: I couldn't find one
- HAVE FUN!!!!!!!

Conductor notes regarding the specific songs: *Pretend I am just sitting beside you giving you a few tips on how to learn your songs-hope these are helpful.*

Maple Leaf Rag (Famous & Fun Duets) ♩ =180

All: Counting out loud and working with a metronome is a must-every day, every song! Circle dynamics and learn them from the beginning.

Secondo: Playing on beat 1 and 3 from the beginning-be sure to count. Hold whole notes (m. 9, 11, 12) for four full beats; circle measure #15 & #16 and remember you have eight full counts before coming in on page 18 with two accidentals in the R.H. Don't miss—you get to play the pedal on measures #13 *through* the page turn.

Primo: You have several repeating patterns (first two lines are alike; line three C, Eb, Ab, G pattern; line four C, Eb, G pattern) observing these patterns help us learn our music faster and have better performances. Be careful with your counting measures #9 - #12 and circle measures #13 & #14 to remember that you have eight counts before coming in with the C, Eb, G pattern from left to right hand which ends with the left-hand crossing over the right hand into the treble clef on Treble C. You may be tempted to play C with your right hand, but following the music, it will look really cool as everyone crosses together!

Theme from Symphony No. 5 (Famous & Fun Duets) ♩ = 180

All: We get to play this fun piece, but it will only be fun if we count! While counting out loud and working with a metronome is a must-every day, every song, it is even more important on this song! Circle dynamics and learn them from the beginning-each part has 9 dynamic marks and tons of accents!

Secondo: How many beats does a whole note get? You are going to need to know that!!! Don't take a nap while you are holding those whole note ties, be sure to keep counting so you can come in with the melody on measure #15 and take us all the way to the end with some serious counting and playing!

Primo: Watch your right-hand plays in the bass clef (m. 8 & 12) and you have tons of dynamics! You do not get a break on this song –you will need to be counting for the entire song! Be sure to hold whole note ties for a full eight beats and don't miss your measures with whole rests.

Wipe Out (Famous & Fun Pop Duets) ~~♩ = 192~~ changed to ♩ = 180

All: Maybe our most fun piece, but we really need to work to make it awesome! Counting out loud and working with a metronome is a must-every day, every song! Circle dynamics and learn them from the beginning. Lots of accidentals! Be sure you count your dotted half note, quarter tie rhythm. Learn the proper fingering from the beginning-it feels cramped, but it will help your hands fly on the keys! Watch me on our ending!

Primo: Last line, left hand is playing as a right hand for two notes-circle them and work this part out.

This Land Is Your Land (Famous & fun Pop Duets) ~~♩ = 144~~ changed to ♩ = 150

All: Probably our easiest piece, but don't slack off, it's the most meaningful! Circle dynamics and learn them from the beginning. Last line-play majestically... "This land was made for you and me" ... watch me on last measure!!

Secondo: will have our driving beat-right from the beginning, be sure to count a steady beat and play with a *mp* staccato touch until you have the melody.

Primo: be sure to hold your half and whole notes for their full beats; circle measure #16 and remember you have four counts before coming in with the driving, steady *mp* beat beginning with measure #17.

HAVE FUN, SEE YOU SOON!