

**“Editing” for Concert Band, Part 2**

*by John Kirsch, Rudder Middle School*

*This is a continuation of editing concepts, from the March TBA Journal, which may help improve the overall sound of your band.*

8. Check the scoring of your Low Woodwinds. Make sure it’s in the good sounding part of their range. For example, look at the Bass Clarinet part below. The function of the Bass Clarinet in an ensemble setting is to support the lower instruments. Have the Bass Clarinets play lower notes such as the Tuba line to help deepen the sound of your band. Putting a part such as this down an octave, where possible, would not be a good idea because it would create clutter among the bass line.



9. Alto Saxes can help reinforce 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Clarinets, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Trumpets, French Horns, and even Trombones or Baritone. If you have a lot of Altos, you might write a separate part doubling a Low Brass line.
10. Clarinets are great for helping a weak Trumpet section. At spots where the range becomes too high, have a Clarinet or two take over those notes while the Trumpets move down to a more comfortable range in the chord. You can do the same thing with Altos on French Horn lines.
11. All instruments have notes that are tuning disasters (Flute C#, Oboe low Db, Clarinet A, Sax C#, Trombone 5<sup>th</sup> position, Baritone-Tuba low B, Trumpet low C#). For contest, you might want to play it safe and try to avoid these notes. For example, try exchanging chord tones with another instrument within the same family.

	WRITTEN	CHANGED TO
3 <sup>RD</sup> Clarinet	A	F#
Alto Sax	C#	E

CONCERT “C” CHORD, EXCHANGING E and G.

12. If your 1<sup>st</sup> Clarinet is scored in the upper register, doubling the Flute part, you might have a high out of balanced sound based on the size and instrumentation of your band. Try putting the 1<sup>st</sup> Clarinet part down an octave, with possibly one up. You might have to do the same with regards to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rds</sup> specially with regards to some of the old marches.

The image shows a musical score for four staves: Flute, Clarinet 1, Clarinet 2, and Clarinet 3. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The Flute part is in the upper register. The Clarinet 1 part is also in the upper register, doubling the Flute part. The Clarinet 2 and Clarinet 3 parts are in the lower register. The score consists of six measures.

A high 1<sup>st</sup> Alto Sax part can stick out like a sore thumb. For Contest you might consider using just 2<sup>nd</sup> or a modified 2<sup>nd</sup> part.

13. Try to keep the Oboe within the staff and avoid low Db's. One Oboe can ruin the sound of the entire band, so possibly play it safe for this one performance.
14. Flutes playing in the upper register can be a problem. Try having one or two up while the others play down an octave, a lower chord tone, or possibly an Oboe part. You might have to do this for only a measure or two or possibly at a fermata for balance.

Well, this is all for now. I hope this has opened up some doors for you. Basically, score the instruments where they have a good sound, try to avoid bad tuning notes, and alter the scoring to enhance the sound of your band. Look for “Editing for Concert Band, Part 3” in your next issue.

*John Kirsch has BA, BME, and MM degrees from the University of Nebraska, has written extensively for High School and Middle School Bands, and presently teaches at Rudder Middle School in San Antonio Texas.*