

# Oregon Band Directors Association

## 2021 Updated Required High School Concert Band Literature List

By OBDA Literature Committee,  
Stuart Welsh, West Albany High School – Chair  
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Dave Sime, State Band Contest Chair

### PREFACE

The *OBDA Required High School Literature List* is revised every four years to reflect changes in OSAA classifications and to allow for rotation of new and old titles onto and off of the list. You are encouraged to read this entire preface carefully and if concerns still exist, please contact OBDA or Dave Sime at the addresses below.

Please note the following rules:

- For the 2021-22 School year, schools MAY choose to play a piece from the classification list 1 level below their OSAA designated classification. This is not a requirement, but will be allowed. **Note for 1A/2A Conductors:** We encourage directors to consider using the OBDA Middle School list (available on the OBDA site) as a resource for choosing pieces. If you choose a program from this list, you will need to have the program approved through the OSAA State Band Chair, Dave Sime.
- Starting in 2022-23, Schools must play at their actual OSAA classification (e.g. 6A play from the 6A list, not the 5A list, etc...).
- As always, schools may play from any list at a higher level than their classification.
- Second (less advanced or younger) bands from a school should play from the list one classification lower than their school's classification. Third bands should play two levels lower.
- Any school may elect to play and be adjudicated at a level lower than their OSAA classification. However, their performance will be for festival ratings only and they will not be eligible for consideration for state qualification or ranked competition.
- The current OBDA adjudication system's "sliding scale" usage will remain in place.
  - 1A/2A Scale - 1A / 2A schools, 2nd bands from 3A & 4A, 3rd bands from 5A & 6A.
  - 3A/4A Scale – 3A & 4A schools, second bands from 5A & 6A.
  - 5A/6A Scale – 5A & 6A schools.

This means that a 6A school's 2<sup>nd</sup> band would play a selection from the 5A music list, but be judged on the 3A/4A scale. If the 5A level is too difficult, they may opt to play from any level but will still be judged on the 3A/4A scale.

It should be stressed that OBDA's substitution policy will continue to be in place. However, with the addition of at least 10 new pieces to each level's list, and the rotation of some pieces off the list, we encourage directors to consider choosing pieces from these lists. Individual leagues, districts, and invitational festivals are welcome to adapt this system as needed for their own purposes. However, bands wishing to qualify for the OSAA State Band Championships must adhere to the requirements below.

**MIDDLE SCHOOLS:** This list below is intended for high school contest and festival use. An excellent recommended list of middle school literature compiled by Laura Arthur and a committee of outstanding middle school directors appears on the OBDA website at <https://www.oregonbda.org/>

**REQUIRED USE:** Classification shall be based upon the use of the required list for festivals and contests. Schools may enter any classification level regardless of enrollment or OSAA classification, but may not play in a class below their OSAA classification in a competitive (ranked) contest. If they do, they will not be considered in the rankings and will be playing for festival rating only.

Bands participating in, or attempting to qualify for the OSAA High School State Band Championship must play from the list corresponding to their OSAA classification\* or may play from a higher classification's list. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Bands only need to program one selection from the list to fulfill this requirement. Bands electing to play for ratings or critique only may choose their selection from any classification.

\*Please see the note on page 1 regarding the except for the 2021-22 school. This is intended to assist with the Post-Pandemic realities that we are all facing.

**UPDATED CONTENT:** This list has been revised based on input from the literature committee and a comprehensive review of all works on all lists. This revision represents the biggest number of changes in more than two decades. While many of these selections have been on the list for years, a number of new selections have been added based on research into our own state contest archives of what has been most played by our member schools. Additions include compositions that regularly appear on selective music lists around the country, works that have received critical acclaim from ABA, NBA and other reviewing bodies, and new literature that the committee feels are worthy of inclusion. Significant attention has been paid to including more works by female composers, composers of color, and composers from the LGBTQIA+ community. As part of the review of existing pieces on the list, several works have been removed due to problematic content regarding race or ethnicity, or racially or ethnically inappropriate writings or beliefs from the composer.

**OBDA LIST GUIDING PRINCIPALS:** Unlike the lists from many states, the OBDA list is purposely kept rather short to encourage exploration of new composers and compositions other than what is on the list to complete your festival programs. Because of this, many standard band compositions are not on the list. With some exceptions, it is also standard practice for the OBDA list to not include marches and pieces of a purely ballad nature. OBDA is not discouraging the inclusion of those styles in your program in any way. It is worth noting that each list now included 10 more pieces than in the past (now 50 pieces per classification). The works in each category are to be seen as an outline of the level and quality of literature each of these school sizes should be working toward for the festival season.

**SUBSTITUTIONS:** Directors wishing to substitute a composition that does not appear on this list may submit a written request by email to the OSAA State Band Contest Chair, Dave Sime. A decision will be quickly made, sometimes in consultation with the OBDA literature list committee, and returned in writing. The director should then forward the permission to the contest chair of the event in which they are entering. This is particularly important for groups who wish to qualify for the OSAA State Band Championships.

OBDA makes this list available for use with the *OMEA Large Group High School League, District or Invitational Contest Format*, available through the OSAA and OBDA websites.

Requests for substitutions should be submitted to the OSAA State Band Contest Chair:

Dave Sime, [dsime@bendcable.com](mailto:dsime@bendcable.com)