

Oregon Band Directors Association

2022-2023 Required High School Concert Band Literature List Preface

By OBDA Literature Committee,
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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 Leadership (see OBDA website for more information).

Please note the following rules:

- For the 2022-23 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. Since there is not a required level below 1A/2A, directors will need to submit your pieces for approval (only one selection will need to be approved).
- 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 2nd 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 exception for the 2022-2023 school year. 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 (American Bandmasters Association), NBA (National Band Association) 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 PRINCIPLES: 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 includes 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 the required list should use the following form to submit their request: OBDA PRE-APPROVAL LITERATURE LIST SUBMISSION FORM. The piece will be assessed and reviewed by the members of the OBDA Literature Committee. Directors will receive an email within two weeks that includes the decision and rationale based on the criteria below. This is particularly important for groups who wish to qualify for the OSAA State Band Championships.

LITERATURE CRITERIA FOR 2022-2023 ONLY:

Approval for pieces will be based on the difficulty of literature. General difficulty requirements specific to this year are listed below. Every publisher has a little different scale for difficulty. The Literature Committee will take this into account. Flex Band and Adaptable Music will also be treated the same as standard Concert Band Literature to accommodate smaller bands.

- 6A: Grade 4 (or higher)
- 5A: Grade 3.5 (or higher)
- 4A: Grade 3 (or higher)
- 3A: Grade 2.5 (or higher)
- 1A/2A: Grade 2 (or higher)

These difficulty levels are one level lower than the normal requirements as you can see in the HS Required Literature List.

LITERATURE CRITERIA FOR A NORMAL SCHOOL YEAR (as reference):

Approval for pieces will be based on the difficulty of literature. General difficulty requirements specific to this year are listed below. Every publisher has a little different scale for difficulty. The Literature Committee will take this into account. Flex Band and Adaptable Music will also be treated the same as standard Concert Band Literature to accommodate smaller bands.

6A: Grade 5 (or higher)

5A: Grade 4 (or higher)

4A: Grade 3.5 (or higher)

3A: Grade 3 (or higher)

1A/2A: Grade 2.5 (or higher)

These difficulty levels are based on the current requirements as you can see in the HS Required Literature List.

The decision for the piece will expire at the end of the school year. Before submitting a piece, directors should review the OBDA PRE-APPROVAL LITERATURE LIST STATUS SPREADSHEET to see if the piece has already been approved or rejected. Directors are encouraged to contact the OBDA Literature Committee for additional help selecting literature suitable for their ensembles. Visit the Leadership page of the OBDA website (www.oregonbda.org) for contact information.

IMPORTANT LINKS:

[OBDA PRE-APPROVAL LITERATURE LIST SUBMISSION FORM \(2022-2023\)](#)

[OBDA PRE-APPROVAL LITERATURE LIST STATUS SPREADSHEET \(2022-2023\)](#)

[CURRENT HS REQUIRED LITERATURE LIST](#)

[CURRENT MS RECOMMENDED LITERATURE LIST](#)

[OSAA BAND/ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK INFORMATION](#)