

Hello to my Director Friends

I hope this finds you wrapping up another successful season. I felt like this might be a good time to touch base and share some updates. Some directors are only thinking about Summer vacation right now. And others are already heavily involved in their planning for the next season. When you're ready to think about music for the season ahead, here are some quick items for your consideration:

New Concert Work w Hal Leonard I am excited that Hal Leonard is publishing my new *Fortress Variations* for concert band. Based on the hymn, *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, this piece is Grade 4 in difficulty.

Need More Music for Fall? If you're needing music that is playable and even flexible, I've got some new things on my site (www.drtw.net/wsp).

New Flex Titles Available I'm also excited that the WindStream site now has more flex-score music, and for various types of groups (see below).

Please stay in touch as you have time. Would love to know how things are going for you!

Sincerely,

Tim Waters

Tip No. 1: Key Values

Use a MIDI Keyboard to Reinforce Your Ensemble's Sound

- If you have a synthesizer or other keyboard that has the GM (General MIDI) logo, you have a great tool!
- Because the keyboard manufacturers all agreed to standardize GM sounds, you can always count on the same sounds being in the same place, regardless of the brand of instrument you have.
- Taking a few minutes to scroll through the sounds of your GM keyboard will reveal almost every instrument in the band and orchestra. (Though some of these sounds won't fool a trained ear, they can certainly cover a missing part.)
- Next time you need to cover a bass line or a part for a missing wind or percussion instrument, consider using your GM keyboard to supplement your group's sound.
- More info at wikipedia.org (at this site, type in and search for "General MIDI")

Tip No. 2: Great Resources for Free!

- **Audacity** - a free audio program, great for converting audio to MP3, WAV, etc. Also a great editor. See the links to this and my tips article at www.drtw.net/drtw
- **Free Music for Directors!**
 - www.drtw.net/wsp
 - www.freestream.110mb.com

Tip No. 3: Odd Instrumentation? No Problem!

WindStream has brand new music, featuring flex scoring to ensure a great sound!

- music for Marching/Pep Band
- music for Concert Band
- music for Jazz Ensemble
- visit www.drtw.net/wsp