

FIVE MINUTES A DAY #5

Warmup, Tuning and Technique Exercises For Band

ANDY CLARK

REHEARSAL NOTES:

"Five Minutes A Day #5" provides the busy band director with a means to warmup and tune the band, present key studies, develop skills and establish a routine to start the rehearsal which does not waste valuable class time. It is divided into three sections, each with its own purpose.

Section 1: Warm Up Chorale

The purpose of the chorale is to get the lips vibrating and the horns warmed up to playing temperature. Please note that this chorale is in the concert key of Db which no doubt cause some confusion the first time it is attempted. The chorale should be played at a medium volume in a legato style. It is important that you encourage your students to play the chorale without breaking the four bar phrases if possible. While you should insure that your students are playing in as musical a style as possible, do not spend time actually tuning your group at this point. Due to the scoring on the chorale, it is possible to play it with each of the instrument groups (i.e. brass, woodwinds, etc.) as long as you have all four instrument voices covered. The percussion parts on this movement are "tacet". It may be necessary to remind the percussion section that "tacet" means they do not play during this portion and they should also be cautioned to rest their vocal chords while the horn are warmed up properly.

Section 2: Interval Study and Technique Exercise

This movement takes the band quickly through a series of intervals in the keys of Eb, Db, and Bb concert. Students should strive for accurate pitches and carefully observe the articulations as marked. Regardless of the tempo you choose for this exercise, the tempo should remain steady. Since this is a totally unison exercise, it is an excellent test piece for younger students regardless of the instrument. This is also the section where the drums warm up with the band and their parts are designed to relax and warm up the wrists. The drum part should be performed in a relaxed manner and should not overshadow the rest of the band.

Section 3: Tuning Routine

After completing the first two sections, your students and their instruments should be warmed up enough for some serious and productive tuning. Your students should be encouraged to listen carefully and to adjust their instruments at any time during this section where they think they can improve the intonation of their instrument. The drums are also tacet during this section.

At the completion of the tuning routine, you may wish to check the tuning of your band by sections or individuals. Do not be alarmed if your band's first attempts at tuning don't help much or even seem to make things worse. **Tuning is an acquired skill and takes practice.** After a few attempts, your students will be learning what helps and what doesn't and soon you will begin to notice a much more refined pitch coming from your band.

In order for "Five Minutes A Day #5" to help you and your band, it needs to be used regularly and in its entirety. If you wait until the day before the concert or contest to pull this out it will not do you or your students any good at all. Happy Tuning!

Andy Clark



5 Minutes A Day Warm-up #5

Warm-up Chorale

Play in a broad legato style, strive for the best possible tone.

Phillip Bliss, 1876

Arranged by Andy Clark

Melody

Second Part

Third Part

Bass Line

Percussion Tacet

8

15

Key Study & Technique Exercise

Watch the key changes and strive for accurate rhythms and articulations.

3

Unison

9

1X - All Play
2X - Woodwinds
3X - Brass
4X - All Play
Drums play all times

Tuning Routine

Listen carefully & adjust instruments and embouchures as necessary.

Melody

Second Part

Third Part

Bass Line

Percussion Tacet