

FOA: Developing a classification rubric for Concert MPA Pieces

- **Class E**
 1. Key of D and G major (no key changes)
 2. mainly homophonic/ limited polyphony.
 3. similar cello and bass lines if not doubled.
 4. 1st position only (1st and 3rd for basses) and no high 3 and extended position (cello/bass). Limited or no use of chromaticism.
 5. limited use of hooked and slurred bowing. Can have accents.
 6. one violin part or viola doubling 2nd. Simplistic part writing (4part writing)
 7. basic rhythmic patterns (quarters, halves, dotted half and whole)
 8. simple or duple meter only.
 9. simple repeats and simple form. Can allow for road signs.
 10. loud vs. soft dynamics

- **Class D**
 1. Keys of D, G, A, F and C (minimal key changes) and relative minors.
 2. includes elements of previous class.
 3. minimal meter change. 2/4, 3/4 , 4/4, 5/4, 6/8, and 2/2
 4. mostly 1st position. Basses mostly 1st and 3rd. Limited use of chromaticism. Some independent part writing.
 5. add eighth notes, sixteenth notes, simple dotted rhythms, some syncopation, triplets. Limited use of polyphony.
 6. slurs, staccato, spiccato, hooked bowing, tremolo, accents. Uses varied articulation and bow techniques. Some ties.
 7. DC/ DS al fine / al coda.
 8. f, mf, mp, p and crescendo and decrescendo

- **Class C**
 1. includes elements of previous class
 2. 3 sharps and 2 flats major and minor and some key changes.
 3. allow for more mixed meter.
 4. allow for more syncopation and more complex rhythms
 5. more polyphony and independent part writing.
 6. allow for extended positions and shifting. Violins – up to 3rd position, Violas up to 3rd positions. Cellos up to 4th position. Basses up to 5th position.
 7. allow for any bowings.
 8. multiple road signs and allow for more complex forms.
 9. full dynamic range.

- **Class B**
 1. includes elements of previous class
 2. 4 sharps, 4 flats, relative minors, and multiple key changes.
 3. any meter or meter change
 4. Violins up to 5th position. Violas up to 3rd position, Cellos 5th position, and Basses 5th.
 5. full ranges of dynamics.
 6. tempo changes.

- **Class A**
 1. all keys and changes
 2. all meters and changes
 3. allow for stylistic changes.
 4. all positions
 5. Concerns for guidelines regarding symphonies and overtures
 - Must be within time limit
 - must be a substantial representation of the work. (ie, no 16 measure movements as a single work)
 - Any original symphonic movement(s) or overture that is representative of standard orchestral repertoire. (ie, Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart.)
 - If in doubt, call for clarification
 - *This will replace symphony and overtures entries on the FOA required music list*