Chapter 6 – Ensemble Model Cornerstone Assessments

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ABSTRACT

This chapter describes the development of Model Cornerstone Assessment tasks (MCAs) for students in school instrumental and vocal ensembles. The primary purpose of these assessments is to help students develop knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed to independently and collaboratively create original music, perform music, and respond to music as described in the National Core Music Standards. The MCAs engage students in authentic practices of musicians, such as selecting, analyzing, and interpreting music; setting goals; pursuing feedback; and reflecting on and revising their work. A team consisting of ensemble directors, music administrators, and college professors who served as research advisors developed the ensemble cornerstone assessments and engaged in multiple field studies to determine their utility and feasibility for use in a variety of ensemble classroom settings.