

CONDUCTOR

Concert Tuner in E \flat

by Brian Harris

Concert Tuner is an ideal tool to help get your band comfortable on stage before a performance. The simple rhythm, unison phrases, and limited harmony allow students to become accustomed to the set-up and acoustics of the stage and performance hall as well as checking intonation and balance among the players. Suggestions for use . . .

Play the **First Tuner**:

- Have students memorize notes and look at you.
- Make eye contact with all students while sustaining the first note.
- Check student seating and stand height. Re-arrange set-up as needed.
- Listen for players/sections needing intonation adjustments.
- Encourage the students to listen to the release of the first and last note ("get the feel of the stage").
- Ask students "Can you hear the people around you?"

The **Chorale** is organized into alternating unison, then harmonized, phrases.

When playing, listen for:

- Intonation discrepancies in winds during first phrase (unison).
- Balance between winds and percussion during second phrase (harmonized).
- Intonation among solo treble lines during third phrase (unison).
- Balance of entire ensemble during final, harmonized phrase.

During the **Final Tuner**:

- Have students make eye contact with you.
- Vary dynamic level by conducting gestures.
- Once again, have students listen to release of the final note.

First Tuner*

The musical notation for the First Tuner is presented in a grand staff with two systems. The first system shows the unison phrase with a whole note chord of E-flat (F2) and G2 (F3) in both staves. The second system shows the harmonized phrase with a whole note chord of E-flat (F2) and G2 (F3) in the bass staff, and a whole note chord of A-flat (G3) and B-flat (A3) in the treble staff. The third system shows the unison phrase with a whole note chord of E-flat (F2) and G2 (F3) in both staves. All notes have a fermata above them.

* Percussion tacet (except Mallet instruments)