



Grade Thrive: Differentiation and Inspiration Through Programming  
The Midwest Clinic  
Thursday, December 21, 2017  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

<http://swhs-instrumental-music.weebly.com/grade-thrive.html>

$3 + 5 = \underline{\textit{Thrive}}$

### Essential Question

For ensembles with a wide range of ability level, how can we as conductors find repertoire that keeps experienced players engaged while providing technically accessible parts for developing players?

“Grade Thrive” explores music with Grade 3 technical demands and Grade 5 artistic merit (on a Grade 1-6 scale). The concept can also be applied to less advanced (1-3, 2-4) or more advanced (4-6) literature, with the common theme being a variety of ability level within the ensemble. By empowering all players in an ensemble to create an expressive, musical performance of a less challenging piece, conductors create a more meaningful learning experience for their ensembles.

### Panelists

Carl Holmquist  
Director of Bands  
H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program  
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Dr. Timothy Mahr  
Professor of Music, Conductor of the St. Olaf Band  
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Stephanie Scheibe  
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### Methods

Panelists will address how they apply the concept of Grade Thrive to their own programs, which run the gamut of the landscape of music education in America, from urban to rural, large to small schools, and middle school through collegiate age levels. Details regarding the methods can be found on our website at <http://swhs-instrumental-music.weebly.com/principles-of-grade-thrive.html>.

### Commissioning New Works

One of the most powerful experiences for our programs has been to commission new works that seek to provide repertoire that fits the Grade Thrive criteria. Through composer interaction and the excitement and responsibility of bringing a new work to life, the commissioning process has allowed our players - and us - to thrive.

### Want your ensembles to Thrive too?

Time to get your phones out - WE NEED YOU!

If our session today resonated with you, help us generate a document of Grade Thrive pieces by filling out this Google form: <http://tinyurl.com/y7d9mh7s>