

# ENSEMBLE TECHNIQUE 2011

## TEACHING GUIDE

ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY HUSKY SPORTS BAND

### 1. PHRASE.

Simple warm-up exercise based on the open fifth and third I-IV-V chord progression often associated with the Blue Devils Drum & Bugle Corps.

**Objectives:** Breathing before you play, using a breath release after each fermata, sustaining longer notes, tone quality, intonation, blend and balance.

**Recommendations:** Avoid conducting and give responsibility of playing together to the musicians themselves. Try playing the entire piece as eighth notes to turn it into an articulation exercise.

### 2. ACCENT SCALE.

Useful exercise to isolate and improve the accuracy and uniformity of accents in different registers; this exercise should be applied to a scale of your choice.

Therefore, each measure is a different scale degree ascending or descending.

**Objectives:** Accuracy and uniformity of accents in different registers.

**Recommendations:** Avoid conducting and give responsibility of playing together to the musicians themselves. Consider playing the exercise, but only the accented notes within each measure.

### 3. SLURS.

Basic set of lip slurs for the brass instruments and scales for the woodwinds.

## 4. CHROMATIC.

Chromatic patterns based on the Bflat octave.

**Objectives:** Finger dexterity and accuracy.

**Recommendations:** Begin learning this exercise very, very slowly. The fingers must move correctly and quickly for each instrument.

## 5. CLARK.

Technique exercise based on a traditional Clark study.

**Objectives:** Finger dexterity and accuracy.

**Recommendations:** After the musicians have become confident on this exercise you may ask them to play it in different keys other than just concert Bflat major. Also consider applying different articulation patterns such as slur-two, staccato-two, or any variation. Also consider playing it as a swing or jazz exercise.

## 6. ACCURACY.

General technique exercise.

## 7. ABIDE WITH ME.

Four-part chorale based on *Abide With Me* written without barlines.

**Objectives:** Becoming comfortable with phrasing and getting away from the distraction of barlines. Avoid breathing on barlines. Tone quality and intonation. Blend and balance.

**Recommendations:** Memorize this chorale and encourage your band to perform it with their eyes closed listening to each other for accuracy, tone quality, intonation, and a uniform blend and balance between different sections.

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