

An Exercise for Wind Conductors
Michael Votta

1. Make a list of what you consider to be the 35 finest works for winds (chamber winds, wind ensemble, full band, etc.)
2. Make a list of what you consider to be the 35 finest works for orchestra (including choral/orchestral works)
3. Combine the two lists into one list of the 35 finest instrumental works in Western musical culture
4. Answer these questions:
 - a. How many of your wind works wound up on your final list?
 - b. How does that inform your understanding of the wind repertoire and its relation to Western musical culture?
 - c. What criteria did you use in compiling your lists?
 - d. Did your criteria change (i.e. “evolve”) as you made each list?
 - e. What criteria now define “the finest instrumental works in Western musical culture” in your eyes?
 - f. How is this embodied in your programming?
 - g. How can we use this knowledge to bring wind music more centrally into Western musical culture?