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10/11/11

MusEd 350

Dr. Inks

Topic Paper 1

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Now having served the majority of my first placement I feel I can begin to discuss the topic I have chosen. My cooperating teacher has selected the music for his first concert to be based around well-known composer Frank Ticheli. The music he has selected emphasizes the outstanding composing techniques that Mr. Ticheli uses in his music. Too often we see directors who are looking for an easy way out. Playing simple music and marches that will quickly satisfy communities, administrators and parents. Some of these pieces are good to play; but we can see programs in which excellent literature is not being placed in front of students on a regular basis.

I was more than pleased to learn that this concert would be based around Frank Ticheli’s music. Only having the opportunity to experience it while attending Ball State I find his music to contain not only the well known content that many older pieces today have but they also seem to have a lighter, newer side to them at the same time. They provide both great musical experiences for students to discover but contain good musical concepts that can be taught as well. I am also impressed by Mr. Ticheli’s ability to incorporate programmatic details into the music. During a sectional recently I was able to discuss with my students the meaning behind the second movement of Cajun Folk Songs. The students embaced the information I gave them and actually incorporated it into their playing.

Not having the opportunity to experience what exactly Muncie Central has been playing over the past couple years, after talking to Mr. Arnett it would seem that he has tried to expose his students to newer, “better” literature. My partner and I were given opportunities not only to look further into Mr. Ticheli’s works but other outside works as well.

Overall we see a clear connection to the basics of education. Mr. Arnett is clearly connecting to INTASC standard one in his classroom. He knows exactly what his students need to gain both educationally and musically. By incorporating Frank Ticheli’s music into the classroom he is giving his students the opportunity to experience this excellent choice of music. I hope to take the music being used in this classroom as well as other literature to my classroom to be experienced.