

THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM

Facilities

Facilities of adequate size and appropriate design are necessary to accommodate effective instruction in the essential elements of the elementary school music curriculum which include activities of singing, listening, and moving to music. The music classroom should have the following characteristics:

- The room size should be at least one-third larger than the standard classroom and should provide floor space adequate for class seating and for performing movement activities.
- The location of the room should be removed from the regular classroom area because of sound factors that may cause disruption of other classes. However, an adjacent location to regular classrooms is possible if acoustical treatment exists to minimize sound problems.
- Both base and wall cabinets for storage of materials and equipment should be lockable and located along the perimeter of the room.
- The room should provide book shelves sufficient for storing several class sets of textbooks and other materials.
- Provisions for accommodating heavy student traffic should include double doors and/or dual entrance/exits.
- The use of carpet for floor covering is recommended, because it provides excellent acoustical effect and student comfort during movement activities.

The use of the regular classroom for the teaching of music is sometimes necessary. In this case, teachers should adjust the classroom environment as much as possible to accommodate the unique needs of the program.

THE SECONDARY SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Facilities

Rehearsal Facilities

The music building or wing is unique in requirements of space and design. Facilities that appear to be completely adequate from the standpoint of overall floor space are often deficient for music purposes. Instrumental music facilities should reflect the following characteristics:

- The main rehearsal area should be large enough to accommodate the largest group that will ultimately use the room. Space should be adequate to provide for flexibility of seating, with at least 10 to 15 feet between the front row of players and the wall which they are facing.
- Facility designers should provide a minimum of 20 square feet and 400 cubic feet for each student.
- Minimum height of the rehearsal room should be 16 feet.
- Facility designers should locate or construct rehearsal areas so they will be sound isolated from other areas of the school.
- Designers should give special attention to rate of reverberation and sound distribution when planning rehearsal rooms. In planning new facilities or remodeling older buildings, architects should be required to consult with acoustical engineers.
- A reliable system for climate control is essential for the main rehearsal room and other rehearsal spaces such as practice rooms and small ensemble rooms. All of these areas should be air conditioned, both for comfort of musicians and for proper maintenance of instruments. Playing qualities, intonation, and durability of musical instruments are affected by conditions of humidity and temperature.

- Air conditioning and heating systems should provide adequate circulation of air. The noise factor should be considered in the design of the system, as well as in the selection and location of equipment.
- Designers should provide adequate lighting in all rehearsal and work areas.

Auxiliary Rooms

- Instruments should be stored in areas that can be locked easily and securely. For a rehearsal room with few other uses during the day and with little outside traffic, instrument shelves located in the rehearsal room may be satisfactory if they can be covered with roll-down doors. If separate storage rooms are provided, they should open into the main rehearsal area. For best results in speeding traffic flow, at least two or three separate storage rooms should be provided (for percussion, trap sets, timpani, auxiliary equipment, wind instruments, stringed instruments). Storage space should be sufficient to meet maximum enrollments planned for the instrumental music program in the school.
- A separate uniform storage room should include storage space for items such as cases for large instruments not needed on a daily basis.
- A separate library room should include adequate filing facilities for music, tables, and work space for librarians.
- Sound-treated practice rooms for individuals and small groups are desirable.
- An office should be available within the music facility for each teacher using the area. Telephone service should be provided for after-school hours as well as during the school day.
- When possible, a separate room should be provided for storage of recording equipment and for recording individuals and small groups. This room should include storage for tapes, records, and films.
- Facilities design can utilize storage facilities as sound buffers between practice rooms and other areas of the building.

Performance Facilities

Adequate facilities for public performance should be available as near to the rehearsal areas as possible. Considerations include provision of a stage large enough to accommodate the performing organization comfortably, adequate seating space for the audience, and effective acoustical treatment.

Facilities, Marching

- The marching band must have a rehearsal area that is equal in dimension to a regulation football field, plus room around the field to enter and exit in formation.
- The field must be marked accurately with yardlines every five yards and in-bounds lines.
- Proper care and maintenance are essential for grass surfaces. Conditions that often result from a prevalence of dead grass and dust are detrimental to the health of students and to proper care of instruments.
- The drill area should be close to the band room to minimize time lost in transit.

THE SECONDARY SCHOOL CHORAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Facilities

The characteristics of the choral music facility are identical to those suggested for the instrumental music program with the following exceptions:

- The size of the rehearsal room should be a minimum of 10 square feet of floor space and 200 cubic feet per student.
- The room size should be proportional to accommodate semicircular risers, either permanent or portable. The remaining flat floor space should be adequate to accommodate a number of students equal to the capacity of the risers.