

Your Adaptation Questionnaire

Keep this next to you while you fill it out.

BEFORE YOU START

- Have your **full-length perusal scores** open in front of you. The questionnaire asks for measure numbers, and you can't ask for a change in measure 98 if you can't see measure 98.
- Your full-length scores come as soon as I receive your payment or a guarantee of payment, like a purchase order.
- Got a due-date reminder before your scores arrived, or need more time? Just tell me and I'll move the date.

THE BIG IDEA

Your music should fit the band that walks onto the field at your first rehearsal... not the one you're hoping for by October.

HOW HARD IT WILL BE

- I aim the difficulty at the middle **80 to 90%** of your band.
- Your top players stay engaged through range, features and leadership opportunities.
- Your middle, the majority of your band, gets a real challenge: about half to two-thirds of the season to perform at a high level.
- Your bottom 10% may find it a reach at first. That's normal for every band, and more often than not, they grow into it.
- Late in the season, once you know your players, you can lightly adapt a few spots for individual students. That's why I don't write alternate parts up front.

WHAT I ADJUST

- **Included:** anything that fits the music as written to your band's size and strengths, like reassigning a solo, thinning a part for a weaker section or simplifying a run that's out of reach.
- **A separate conversation:** creative rewrites that change what the music actually is. Additional fees may apply.
- Quick gut check: if it's about who plays what and how hard, it's included. If it changes the music itself, it's creative.

GREAT EDIT REQUESTS

- Be specific and point me to measure numbers. The more precise you are, the closer I land to what you're hearing in your head.
- *"Opener, measures 36 to 44: I'm worried about the trumpet range. Our trumpets are young."*
- *"I'd love the horn solo at measure 98 to become a clarinet solo."*
- Rather hand me the creative calls? Just tell me to use my judgment. Plenty of directors do.

MY DEFAULTS

Unless you tell me otherwise.

- Piccolo players read the flute part, dropping the octave where it makes sense.
- I choose how many parts each section gets, based on what sets your group up to succeed.
- Need treble-clef low brass parts? Just flag it.

BEFORE YOU SUBMIT

- List your instrumentation conservatively: count the players you're confident will be on the field.
- You can save as a draft and come back anytime.
- Working with a program coordinator? Bring them in on this.
- Put everything in its final form, even things you've already told me by email or on a call.

Take your time. The more you tell me, the better I can build to your band!

The full story:

evanvandoren.com/questionnaire-guide

Questions? evanvandoren@gmail.com