Introduction

This project was designed to be used in a sixth grade orchestra class. In my school district, orchestra starts in fourth grade, so the students I had in mind when creating these assessments are in their third year of playing in orchestra. This project offers a collection of various assessments that can be used throughout the entire school year. I compiled the content standards from various sources and selected them based on what I think a sixth grade orchestra should learn throughout the year. Knowledgeable, contributing members of the sixth grade orchestra should demonstrate technical and expressive skills on their instrument through group and solo repertoire, and be knowledgeable of various composers in music history. They should also be able to compose short melodies, and evaluate music performances. The process standards focus on evaluating, which is an important skill to have not only in orchestra, but in all disciplines.

Sixth Grade Orchestra Standards

Content Standards

1. Students will demonstrate accurate technical skills (e.g., scales, rhythms, bowing).
2. Students will demonstrate expressive qualities in music (e.g., crescendo, rallentando, dynamics).
3. Students will perform a varied repertoire of music on their instrument.
4. Students will demonstrate knowledge of composers in the history of music.
5. Students will compose and arrange music within specified guidelines.
6. Students will evaluate musical performances.

Process standards

1. Students will self evaluate.
2. Students will evaluate others.