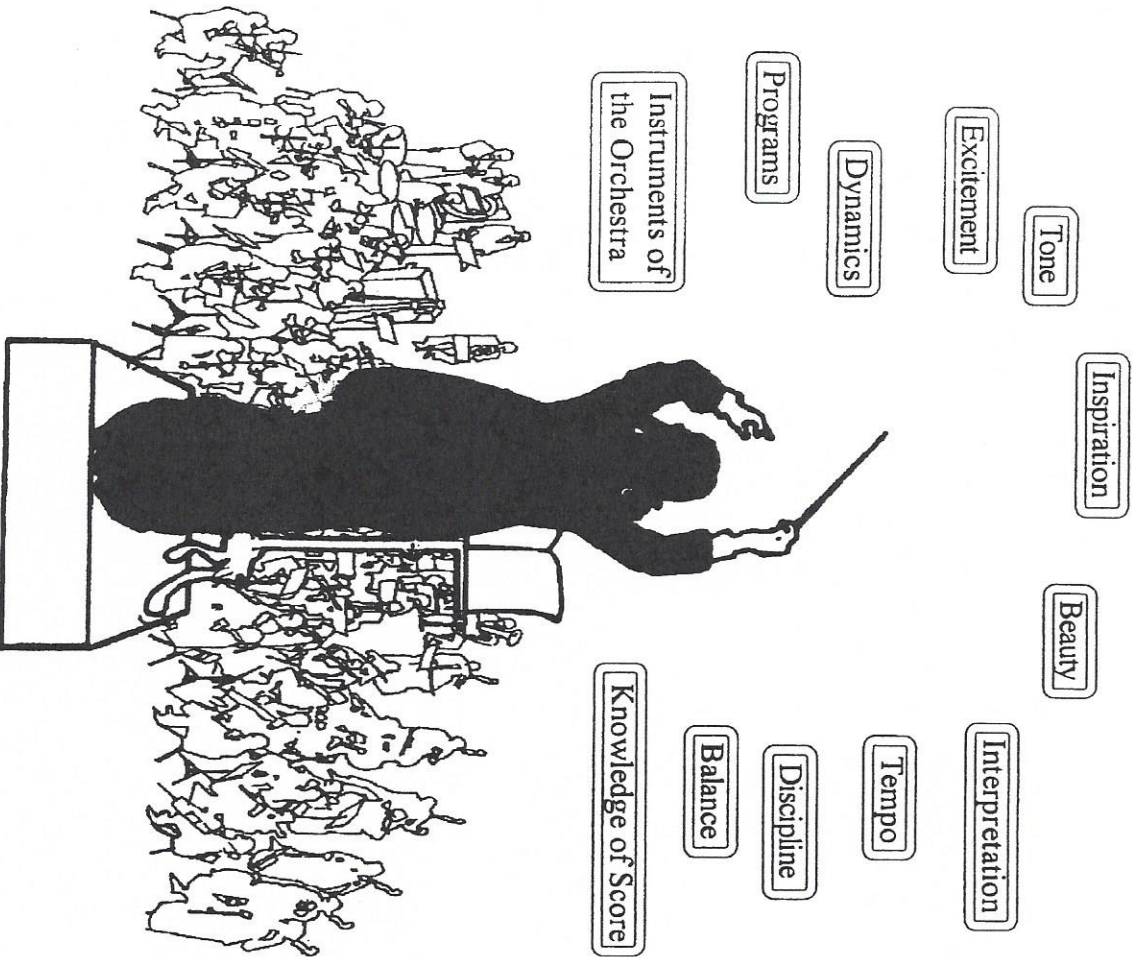


The Conductor

The conductor stands before 60-110 highly skilled musicians trained to perform great musical creations as a single, united ensemble. In the audience is a large and diverse group of expectant listeners. Have you ever wondered: What does the conductor actually do?



Conducting Technique

- ♪ **Tempo**
The steady beat and the speed of the music are usually shown in the movement of the conductor's right hand.
- ♪ **Dynamics**
The volume and expressive details are often indicated in the conductor's left hand and facial expressions.
- ♪ **Power of the Music**
Expressive elements are indicated by hand gestures, body movements, posture, and facial expressions.

Musical Knowledge

- ♪ **Instrumental Understanding**
Conductors know the range and capabilities of all the instruments.
- ♪ **Knowledge of the Score**
Conductors know and anticipate every note and expression in the music.
- ♪ **Interpretation**
Conductors strive to realize the intent of the composer by understanding the score and the time period in which the piece was written. They then can convey the meaning of the music to the players and audience.

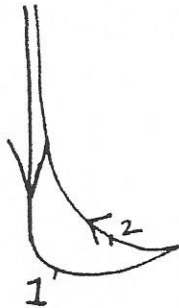
Inspiration

- ♪ **Charisma**
Conductors bring to the podium their musical taste and an intense emotional connection with the music. They inspire the players to perform at their utmost through the strength of their musicianship and personality.
- ♪ **Rehearsal Technique**
During rehearsals the conductor molds the orchestra into a single, precise, expressive instrument able to communicate musical emotion to the listener.
- ♪ **Programming**
Within each concert and throughout the season, the conductor performs pieces that contrast and complement one another.

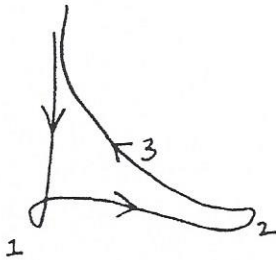
Conducting

One of a Conductor's jobs is to keep the musicians together by showing the beat. Below are some of the various patterns that conductors use to indicate the number of beats in a bar. Once they have determined the number of beats in the bar, ask your students to conduct along with the music as they listen to it. When beginning a piece the Conductor will show an upbeat to bring the musicians in. This is usually the last beat before the down beat which will change depending on the beat pattern.

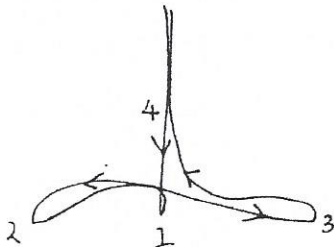
The arm motion for conducting in 2:



The arm motion for conducting in 3:



The arm motion for conducting in 4:

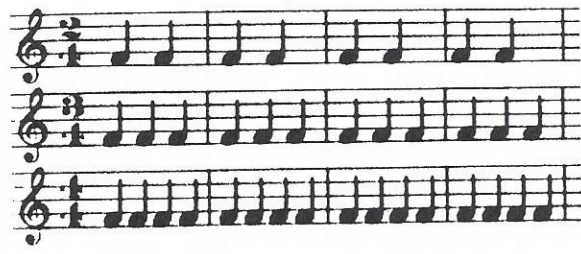


Another job of the conductor is to present an interpretation for the performance of a piece so that the orchestra is unified. Specific motions of the arm within the beat pattern can communicate a lot of information to the musicians as to how s/he wants the music to be performed. Try conducting with your students to show smooth or separate music, loud or soft music. Experiment with other gestures and see what kind of reaction you get.

Conducting Patterns



Time Signature



2 beats per measure

3 beats per measure

4 beats per measure

