

## Making the neighborHOOD Band, A GOOD Band

### Chapter One: Rehearsal Strategies

#### Concert Band Circle Drill

- **Seating Arrangement:** Ensure students do not sit next to like instruments; mix it up.
  - This arrangement promotes cross-section listening and better ensemble cohesion.
- **Activity Instructions:**
  1. Select 2 to 3 different instrument players and have them play a musical exercise, such as an F-concert scale or an assigned musical passage, to introduce the activity.
  2. Choose one player in that group to be the **lead player**. The other players must place their sound "inside" the lead player's sound.
  3. Emphasize to the non-lead players that the lead player's sound must dominate.
  4. Alternate the players and continue the activity to allow each member to lead and follow.
- **Application:**
  - This activity can be used effectively with sections (brass, woodwinds, and percussion).
- **Purpose:**
  1. Teach students to **listen and adjust balance** (volume).
  2. Encourage students to make **musical decisions** in real time.
  3. Help students identify **voice priority** within the ensemble.

This drill cultivates critical listening skills and fosters a stronger, more unified sound within your concert band.