**Establishing Student Leadership in Ensembles**

**Some ideas**

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Running and ensemble is a huge undertaking that involves a wide range of tasks.

Here is list of jobs that may be utilised in school and community ensembles. Apart from the personal benefits to members, sharing the responsibility around gives the Musical Director or Conductor a huge amount of support throughout rehearsals, performances and tours.

**Ensemble Leader**

General leadership responsibilities similar to an Assistant Conductor. They may lead warm-ups and tuning and may lead the ensemble through a chorale.

**Ensemble Manager**

General management role that includes marking the ensemble roll each rehearsal, handing out notices, getting messages out in between rehearsals – eg passing on practice music to ensemble members.

**Section Leaders**

Leadership of their section, both musically and organisationally. Can include collecting section folders at beginning of rehearsals and handing out to section, collecting back at end and putting in score order in library box; interpreting phrasing, fingering, bowing etc and communicating this with section and so on.

**Stage Manager**

Draws up a stage plan for the ensemble and is in charge of set-up for rehearsals and performances

**Librarian/s**

Helps put music into folders; puts folders in order at end of rehearsals; helps with photocopying, finding extra parts. Responsible for taking music to performances

**Stand Crew (+ Team Leader)**

Responsible for putting out music stands for rehearsals and performances

**Chair Crew (+ Team Leader**)

Responsible for putting out chairs for rehearsals and performances

**Percussion Crew (all percussionists + extras)**

Responsible for set-up, pack-up and movement of gear for rehearsals and performances. The percussionists are usually responsible for the actual set-up and pack up of instruments, whilst the rest of the crew move the gear to and from storerooms, trucks and/or performance areas.

Another level of jobs can be added to the list that may include publicity, membership, funding/fundraising, website development and more.

The roles have been handed out in a variety of ways depending on your situation. As MD you may choose to appoint the main roles of Leader, Manager and Section Leaders and call for expressions of interest or a vote for all other positions – or any variety of the above. In your ensemble you may only fill the main roles, in others it may be important to ensure that all members hold a responsibility.

Those holding these positions may be recognised through acknowledgement in concert programs, certificates at the end of the year, badges (readily available through badge companies) or attendance at relevant functions.

**Everyone Has a Number**

Great for excursions, tours or just general inclusive fun!

Give every person in the band a number, either alphabetically or in score order. Practice running through the numbers as smoothly and accurately as you can. Use this to identify who is missing etc. Use this to celebrate who is there and to help everyone feel part of the team!