Concert Band Pentatonic composition

Stage 1: Introduce the major pentatonic scale, starting on F. Each student must create a melody which:

1. is comprised entirely of the pentatonic scale

2. is structured in 2 or 3 balanced phrases

3. fits the register of their own instrument

Stage 2: Have students work in partners. Each pair must choose one of their melodies to continue to develop. They may also merge the two melodies together into a single 2-4 balanced phrase melody which meets the requirements above.

Stage 3: Each pair of students should merge with 3 other groups of different instruments. These groups should create a single composition in rondo form which utilizes each group’s melody. These melodies may be utilized independently or as countermelodies to one another. Each group should create a composition which:

1. maintains penatonicity

2. possesses an accompaniment which changes with each section of the rondo form. These may include standard accompaniments like block chords and arpeggiations or more inventive processes

3. provides at least 3 different parts throughout

4. transposes all 3 parts for C, Bb, Eb, and F instruments