

ONE Neighborhood Band

Sponsored by Brian Perkins & Young Tradition Vermont.

Key Signatures and Repertoire

The O.N.E. band plays traditional repertoire which has been widely performed and recorded, often in different keys or even different versions of the same melody. We want our tunes to be easy to play and fun to listen to. We also want to teach versions of tunes which will be useful when members go out into the wider community. One big consideration are the key signatures of tunes. We play tunes in particular keys based on the following factors.

- If tunes are played locally in a particular key, we want to use that key so that people can jam with other musicians in the community. This is particularly true with Celtic fiddle tune repertoire which is commonly played by many Vermonters. These tunes are played in fiddle-friendly keys like D G and A. This can make these tunes more difficult for wind players, but if you do the work you will actually be able to play along with other fiddle players.
- Some tunes are commonly played in many different keys based on the skills and needs of performers. We have tried to pitch these tunes in the easiest keys for all members of this band. This can be tricky since what is easy on trumpet might be tricky on guitar. Also recorded versions of tunes can sometimes be in very difficult keys. We have tried to stick to the most common and playable keys for these tunes.

We highly value the skills musicians need to communicate and negotiate. Negotiating issues of key signatures and playability is tricky. We will emphasize flexibility and awareness of each other's needs. These rarely taught but essential arranging skills will be tremendous assets for band members as they go through life.

Sheet Music Won't Tell You Everything

Our sheet music features melody, chords and some minimal orchestration. Musicians take that information and create an arrangement which varies with the ensemble and the style of music. Accompanists have to figure out how to support the melody in a way that sounds right. Rock, pop, klezmer, Irish and all types of music have traditional ways of accompanying the melody. The ONE Band will be different EVERY time it plays. That is the freedom and challenge of this music.

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