

Using SmartMusic and Finale for Concert and Contest Literature Teacher Instructions and Lesson Overview



St. Louis, Mo

National Standards for Music Education

1. Singing alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
5. Reading and notating music.
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performances.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

DESE-Missouri Knowledge Standards

Goal 1

DESE-Missouri Performance Standards

1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 2.5, 2.7, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4

Subject Area: Any music education area

Grade Range: 6-12

Students will actively rehearse and record themselves performing solo literature, a cappella, in small ensembles, or as a large group using SmartMusic as a recording device, and in most cases, as accompaniment.

Materials Needed:

- SmartMusic
- SmartMusic microphones
- Finale, 2006 (or 2005)
- Computer station with student access
- Speaker/method of playing SmartMusic in classroom, work station, or practice room.

Time Allowance: This activity could take place during regular class time, or outside of the regular rehearsal. Instructor would determine length of time.

Objectives:

Students will demonstrate:

1. independent learning of song(s) to be performed by the class, for small ensembles or solos for music contests, or other selections chosen by instructor
2. ability to navigate SmartMusic independently
3. enhanced aural perception of their musical performance with the immediate feedback from SmartMusic's recording feature

Lesson

Step 1: Assign students to record a solo, ensemble, or their individual part of a large ensemble selection using SmartMusic. They can locate the appropriate

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accompaniment by using the Search button, or under User Created Files (made in Finale). (See Teaching Tips for directions: *How To Create SmartMusic Files*)

Step 2: Students can use SmartMusic's option of Play Solo Line to drill their part. They may want to rehearse it with both Play Solo Line and Hear Accompaniment to ensure their mastery. Once the student is secure in performing the correct pitches and rhythms, they can de-select Play Solo Line, and click on Instrumentation to select which parts will play; then only the accompaniment or other parts of the score will be heard. (See Teaching Tips for additional ideas on how students can use SmartMusic to rehearse efficiently.)

Step 3: Students can adjust the tempo, percentage of how sensitive they want SmartMusic's Intelligent Accompaniment to follow their performance, and check their microphone level. For a small ensemble or large performing group, place a SmartMusic microphone on a music stand or microphone stand in a central location. Adjust the recording level, if needed.

Step 4: Students may want to use SmartMusic's built in tuner to make adjustments to perform at A 440. (Optional) Students may want to have SmartMusic play their starting pitch, and they can click Play Pitch.) For selections without an introduction, students may choose to click on Click Count Off and decide if they would like to hear a one measure metronome click, a verbal count off, or a combination of the two.

Step 5: Click Record and SmartMusic will begin to record their performance with or without the accompaniment or other scored parts. When the selection is done, SmartMusic will automatically prepare an audio preview of the recorded performance. (If recording a capella, click Stop and SmartMusic will also prepare the recording of the performance.)

Step 6: Click Preview and students can listen to their performance as many times as they choose, which will allow time for them to mark their scores, make adjustments, etc. They may also adjust the balance of their part to the accompaniment on the sliders located on the left side of the Preview screen.

Step 7: Repeat the recording process until the student or instructor is satisfied with the recording and would like to save it. To save the recording, from the Preview screen, choose the method desired and click on one of three choices: Save as .WAV, Save as MP3, or Save and E-mail.

Step 8: Students may save their recording in any of the aforementioned methods, according to what the instructor desires. If the recording is for an audition for an honor group or scholarship, it should be saved as a .WAV and then can be burned to a CD. It may be saved in a folder that has been set up by the instructor or e-mailed to the teacher from the student's home.

Using SmartMusic and Finale For Concert/Contest Literature Supplemental Instructor Info



Assignment Suggestions

1. Assign every student to record their individual part on a piece your large group has learned using SmartMusic. (Or, every student could record a solo that fits their ability level.) Have the student save his/her recording. (This could be in a folder previously set up for their class, or in whatever manner the instructor desires.) The instructor may assess the recording in any way they feel that benefits the musicianship of students and aids in meeting curriculum goals.

Indicators of Success

Students will be able to:

- 1. demonstrate mastery in using SmartMusic to open solos or user created Finale files**
- 2. edit songs demonstrating understanding of musical terms**
- 3. record, save, and critique their performance as recorded by SmartMusic**
- 4. experience a heightened aural perception of their own performance, and use critical thinking skills to analyze areas that need improvement**

Assessment

- Students can be assessed on their knowledge of using SmartMusic to edit and record a selection as a soloist, or in a small or large ensemble.**
- Students could be given points for accuracy of pitches and rhythms, intonation, tone quality, dynamics, musicality, and articulations.**
- Students may receive points toward improvement in target areas of their performance.**
- The student could write a critique of their own performance, and fulfill curriculum standards in written expression.**
- Students would demonstrate mastery of basic SmartMusic controls on a short matching quiz with a score of 75% or higher.**

Lesson Extensions

- 1. Challenge students to perform a “mini-recital” of their solo or ensemble for the class using SmartMusic.**
- 2. Offer extra credit to students who learn and record additional selections each grading period.**
- 3. Consider extra points for any students who record appropriate level literature with SmartMusic and submit their recording and application to an auditioned honor groups.**
- 4. Assign the “Terms of SmartMusic Worksheet” prior to having students begin using school work stations.**

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SmartMusic Operation Terms Worksheet



Name _____ Class _____ Hour _____

Fill in the correct description to match the operation terms of SmartMusic.
(Descriptions are found at bottom of the page.)

1. Open-
2. Play-
3. Record-
4. File-
5. Tempo-
6. Recording Level-
7. Intelligent Accompaniment-
8. Click On-
9. Hear Accompaniment-
10. Hear Solo Line-

SmartMusic Descriptions of Controls: Choose the correct operation to match the command of 1-10 above and write it next to the appropriate term.

Click here to adjust speed of music

Click here to enable or turn off SmartMusic's ability to follow your performance

Click here to find a directory of songs on SmartMusic

Click this to hear accompaniment of your song

Click here to let SmartMusic open a song you have picked

Click this to hear a metronome click during the selection

Click this to begin SmartMusic's recording of your performance

Click this to hear the pitches of your solo or part

Click this to start SmartMusic playing your song

Adjust this slider at top left of SmartMusic when recording-higher or lower

This assignment was:

____ easy to complete ____ medium difficult ____ difficult to complete

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SmartMusic Operation Terms Quiz



Name _____ Class _____ Hour _____

Matching: Write the letter of the correct description to match the operation terms of SmartMusic. (Letters with descriptions are found at bottom of the page.)

1. ___ Hear Accompaniment
2. ___ File
3. ___ Intelligent Accompaniment
4. ___ Record
5. ___ Open
6. ___ Hear Solo Line
7. ___ Recording Level
8. ___ Click On
9. ___ Play
10. ___ Tempo

- A. Click this to hear accompaniment of your song
- B. Click here to let SmartMusic open a song you have picked
- C. Click here to adjust speed of music
- D. Adjust this slider at top left of SmartMusic when recording-higher or lower
- E. Click here to hear a metronome click during the selection
- F. Click here to find a directory of songs on SmartMusic
- G. Click this to hear the pitches of your solo or part
- H. Click this to begin SmartMusic's recording of your performance
- I. Click this to allow SmartMusic to "follow" your performance
- J. Click this to start SmartMusic playing your song

This assessment was:

___ easy to complete ___ medium difficult ___ difficult to complete