

# Finale and Public Domain Melodies: Student or Instructor Created Arrangements



St. Louis, Mo

## National Standards for Music Education

- 5. Reading and notating music.
- 6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
- 7. Evaluating music and music performances.

## DESE-Missouri Knowledge Standards

Goal 1

## DESE-Missouri Performance Standards

1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 2.5 3.1 3.2, 4.4

Subject Area: Any area of music education

Grade Range: 6<sup>th</sup> grade through adults

Students and instructors will benefit from creating exciting arrangements from public domain melodies. Students creating their first arrangement may experience an increased interest in composition. Instructors will benefit from the increased selections created specifically for their own ensembles, as well as motivating students to create and experiment with elements of arranging and compositional techniques.

Materials Needed: Finale 2005 or later, printer, computer with student access.

Time Allowance: Multi-day, or for quarter/semester project

Objective:

Students will demonstrate knowledge of music that is public domain, create a "lead sheet" with chords, add additional parts and harmonies with Finale's Band-in-a-Box Auto Harmonizer, and add a rhythm section using the MiBAC Jazz Rhythm Section Generator.

## Lesson

- **Step 1: Find a melody that is public domain; (those songs not protected by a copyright.)**
- **Step 2: Enter the melody into Finale in any entry method. (Simple Entry, Speedy, Hyperscribe, or Scanning)**
- **Step 3: Add Chord symbols above the melody. (Click on the Chord Tool) It will allow chords to be typed above the melody. Em7, B, F, etc.) SAVE your completed "Lead Sheet".**
- **Step 4: Highlight your "Lead Sheet". (Click to the left of the clef symbol to highlight ALL of the melody, or use the shortcut: CONTROL A, (WIN), or COMMAND A (MAC).**
- **Step 5: Click on PLUG-INS in the Toolbar of Finale 06. In the drop down menu under Plug Ins is Scoring and Arranging; arrow from Scoring and Arranging to Band-in-a-Box Auto Harmonizer. Click on Band-in-a-Box Auto Harmonizer.**
- **Step 6: Choose the number of "harmonies" are to be added to the melody and the style of music desired. Click on those chosen and click OK. Additional staves will be automatically added to the single staff melody. (Hint: This is an area where many instructors and students may want to experiment. If the harmony chosen does not have the desired harmonic effect, go to File in the toolbar and click on UNDO AUTO HARMONIZER or Control Z. This will remove the added harmonies, but leave the "Lead Sheet" as initially entered. Repeat the initial steps of #6 as many times as desired to "create" the harmony and sound desired. SAVE and name the harmonized score.**

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- **Step 7: Highlight the entire score. (See Step # 4) Click on Plug Ins, then Scoring and Arranging, and arrow to MiBAC Jazz Rhythm Section Generator. Click on the style of rhythm section desired and click OK. Additional staves will be added with piano, bass and a drum set score.**

**The score is complete-SAVE it and name the new arrangement. If desired, Highlight the score again and go to File and choose EXTRACT PARTS to print individual parts.**

**Additional Step, if desired: Add an additional percussion part by highlighting the score, go to Plug Ins, Scoring and Arranging, and then choose Drum Groove. Select a style from the dozens of drum set styles, and click OK. Again, a new staff will be added to the score.**

**See Finale files:**

**“Oh When The Saints” Lead Sheet (Traditional Jazz-public domain)**

**“Oh When The Saints” with Rhythm Section**

**“Oh When The Saints” SATB voices, rhythm section, and drum groove added**

# Student Assignment Ideas: Creating Arrangements from Public Domain Melodies

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## Assignment Suggestions

1. Choose one public domain melody for all students to harmonize and create a rhythm section. The melody could be printed for students, or already entered into Finale as a file that all could access. Students could work in pairs, individually, or as a class adding each step to create the new arrangement.
2. Ask students to find a public domain melody on their own. Instructors will need to verify if the melody is in the realm of public domain. Student can complete the arrangement in groups or as individuals.
3. Assign a mini-research project on copy right laws and how it relates to the use of public domain versus copyright protected music. The assignment will help fulfill curriculum requirements for writing across all curriculum areas.

<b>Level I</b>	<b>Assign a short, 6 to 8 measure melody</b>
<b>Level II</b>	<b>Assign 12 to 32 measure arrangements</b>
<b>Level III</b>	<b>Assign an arrangement of more than 40 measures</b>
<b>Level IV</b>	<b>Assign arrangement for the student's own performing ensemble</b>

## Indicators of Success

### Students will be able to:

1. enter a simple melody into Finale and add harmony and a rhythm section.
2. define public domain music.

## Assessment

**Completed Arrangement of public domain "Lead Sheet" melody; either as a group, in partners, or as an individual.**

## Lesson Extensions

1. **Extract and print parts from student arrangements: perform the student's arrangements in class or on a concert.**
2. **Sponsor an "Arrangement Contest". Submit arrangements to another director to choose a "winner", and other prizes for originality, etc.**