

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: Choral or Vocal Groups

Grade Range: 6-12

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

Materials Needed:

- SmartMusic
- SmartMusic microphones
- Finale, 2005 or 2006
- 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 choir, 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 vocal performance with the immediate feedback of SmartMusic's recording feature

Lesson

Step 1: Assign students to record a solo or an ensemble using SmartMusic. They can locate the appropriate 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 singing the correct pitches and rhythms, they can de-select **Play Solo Line**, and only the accompaniment or other voice parts of choral 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 singing, and check their microphone level. For an ensemble or choir, 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 have SmartMusic play their starting pitch, and they can click **Play Pitch**. For a cappella selections, they may want 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 singing with or without the accompaniment. When the song is done, SmartMusic will automatically prepare an audio preview of the recorded performance. (If recording a cappella, click **Stop** and SmartMusic will also prepare the recording of their singing.)

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 voice 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 can save their recording in any of the aforementioned methods, according to what their teacher desires. If the recording is for an audition for an honor choir 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 voice part on a piece your choir has learned using SmartMusic. (Or, every student could record a solo that fits their voice, or have every student record the same solo, but transpose the piece to a key that fits their tessitura.) 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 vocal selections**
- 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 vocal performance, and make changes to improve their singing**

Assessment

- Students can be assessed on their knowledge of using SmartMusic to edit and record a selection as a soloist or as a small ensemble.**
- Singers could be given points for accuracy of pitches and rhythms, intonation, tone quality, diction, dynamics, and articulations.**
- Students may receive points toward improvement in target areas of their vocal 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 Choir.**
- 4. Assign the “Terms of SmartMusic Worksheet” prior to having students begin using school work stations.**

Lesson plans created by Laura Vaughan

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. Published Octave-
8. Play Pitch-
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 hear first note you are to sing

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 the pitches of your solo or part

Click this to begin SmartMusic's recording of your performance

Click this to change octave of solo line

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. ___ Play Pitch
4. ___ Record
5. ___ Open
6. ___ Hear Solo Line
7. ___ Recording Level
8. ___ Published Octave
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 first note you are to sing
- 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 change octave of solo line
- J. Click this to start SmartMusic playing your song

This assessment was:

___ easy to complete ___ medium difficult ___ difficult to complete