

The SmartMusic Record Feature: Multiple Benefits for All Music Education Areas



St. Louis, Mo

National Standards for Music Education

1. Singing alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of 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 music education area

Grade Range: Any

Students will improve many musical skill areas from hearing their performances on a frequent basis. Heightened aural perception of their rhythmic precision, tone quality, intonation, articulations, and dynamics will benefit any school music program.

Materials Needed: SmartMusic, PA system, and SmartMusic microphone or equivalent (Optional: method of projection in classroom)

Objective: Students will improve their musical performance through frequent recording and analysis.

Students will:

1. Demonstrate critical thinking skills by analyzing the playback of selections performed by: their class, small ensembles, or solos.
2. Make adjustments to improve areas of their performance skills.

Lesson:

- **Step 1: RECORD any type of musical performance with Smart Music's Record Feature. (For example: entire large ensemble, a section of the performing ensemble, soloist, small ensemble, guest clinician, or Master Class.**
- **Step 2: To record, click the RECORD button. (You do NOT open a SmartMusic file if you are recording music without accompaniment.) Click STOP when performance is finished. When using a SmartMusic Accompaniment or User Created file, click RECORD and SmartMusic will begin the accompaniment automatically. It will record until STOP is clicked, or until the end of the selection.**
- **Step 3: Once STOP is clicked, an option screen will appear. The instructor and/or students have 4 choices:**

1. **PREVIEW**: Listen to the recording. The PREVIEW option can be reviewed multiple times; allowing time for students and the instructor to mark their scores and make adjustments in their playing or singing. (The balance of a soloist and accompaniment can be adjusted by the sliders on the left hand side of the Preview Box. If the microphone level was set too high, SmartMusic will briefly display an onscreen message to inform users that the microphone level should be lowered. The performance can still be previewed, even with the microphone level too high. If SmartMusic's digital recorder does not detect any sound coming through the microphone, it will also generate an onscreen message for the user.)
2. **SAVE as a .WAV** file. This can be burned onto a CD and also gives the highest quality recording. (This uses approximately 12 MB per minute.)
3. **SAVE as MP3**. This is the smallest file; approximately 1 MB per minute.
4. **SAVE and E-MAIL**. This saves the recording as an MP3 file and can be e-mailed to specified recipients.

SmartMusic Recording Supplemental Teacher Ideas and Student Projects



Assignment:

1. Assign students to record a special end of the year CD of a song or several songs as a permanent memento of the year. This could be a gift for a family member, etc. Have students record a solo or solos from SmartMusic supported literature that is appropriate to the student's level and curriculum. (See Teacher Tips SmartMusic Recording Projects for cost, and complete instructions.)

Indicators of Success

Students will be able to:

1. Create a CD of music selections appropriate to the scope and sequence of the school's music curriculum.

Assessment

1. Students will be assessed on completion of their individual CD.

Lesson Extensions

1. Students could be assigned a certain number of selections to rehearse and record for a specific letter grade. (For example: 3 solos-A, etc.)
2. Students may be assigned to write a "diary" of the whole CD project, or write journal entries about the project.
3. Ask students to research and write a short biography about the composer of one or more of their CD selections.
4. Assign students extra credit to design and print a CD label for their CD.
5. Consider holding a contest for a design that could be placed on every student's CD.
6. Additional points could be awarded to students whose performing level improved as a result of increased rehearsing for the CD project.
7. Record a guest clinician, lecture, or Master Class for future reference, to replay for students, or to create a written transcript of comments.