

Creating SmartMusic Accompaniments Using Finale and MIDI Files for Your Jazz Band



National Standards for Music Education

3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
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

List Numbers

1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 2.1, 2.5, 2.7, 3.1, 3.2, 4.5

Subject Area: Jazz Band

Grade Range: 7-12

Materials Needed: Finale 2003 (or higher), SmartMusic, PA system, 3rd party software for creating software (ex. Band in the Box)

Time Allowance: Multi-day

Objectives

Students will:

1. Perform a solo or a prescribed section of music from their jazz band music

Lesson

- Step 1: Create a MIDI file using Band in the Box, or another piece of software.
- Step 2: Open the MIDI file in Finale.
- Step 3: Cut and Delete any unnecessary measures.
- Step 4: Save as SmartMusic accompaniment
- Step 5: Open us new SmartMusic file for rehearsal

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Assignment Suggestion

The play-a-long files can be used for ‘woodshedding’ over chord changes. The file can also be used in sectionals and individual practice. Also, by clicking the “Customizing” button, then “Instrumentation,” you can deselect certain staves, therefore creating a ‘music-minus-one’ play-a-along for the rhythm section.

Indicators of Success

Students will be able to:

1. Play a solo using the newly created play-a-long file
2. Play a prescribed section with the newly created play-a-long file

Assessment

Using SmartMusic’s record feature, the student can record him/herself soloing or playing a specific section with the play-a-long file.

Lesson Extensions

1. You may choose to load the SmartMusic files onto the music computer station
2. You also can upload the SmartMusic file onto the school website for download.
3. These files can be used by everyone in the jazz band, including the rhythm section.
4. You can use these files for soloists and sectionals.