

Using Finale NotePad in Teaching Instrumental Music



National Standards for Music Education

4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
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, 1.8, 2.1, 2.5, 2.6, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 4.5

Subject Area: Instrumental Music

Grade Range: 5-12

This lesson is designed to encourage students to analyze music, develop problem solving skills, and encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning.

Materials Needed: Free Finale NotePad, Finale 2006, and SmartMusic

Time Allowance: Multi-day Project

Objectives

1. Students will analyze their own music, looking for possible problem spots
2. Students will learn Finale NotePad as a method of notation.
3. Students will learn rules of proper notation.

Lesson

- Step 1: Instruct students to analyze the music they're working on.
- Step 2: Instruct students to mark (w/ a pencil) the musical phrase that will cause them the most difficulty.
- Step 3: Using Finale NotePad, each student will be instructed to enter the musical phrase.
- Step 4: Student will save the file name as "Student's Name_Piece_Measure" and email the file to the teacher or turn in it on disk or CD.
- Step 5: Teacher will open file in Finale 2006 and save a SmartMusic On-Screen Assessment file (or teach the student to do so).
- Step 6: The new SmartMusic file will be given back to the student on CD for individual practice, or the file can be posted on the school's website.

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Assignment Suggestions

1. Students can work in groups or sections (i.e. Clarinet 3) and open up a discussion on what's the most difficult phrase and why.

Level I	Analyzing Music
Level II	Learning Finale NotePad
Level III	Entering music into NotePad
Level IV	Practicing with SmartMusic file

Indicators of Success

Students will be able to:

1. Proficiently use Finale NotePad and discuss rules of notation.
2. Analyze music, looking for possible problem spots.
3. Perform music through SmartMusic generated files, first created by NotePad.

Assessment

1. Students will be assessed on the accuracy of their initial NotePad file.
2. Students will be assessed on their written and oral skills based on *why* they chose the musical phrase they did.
3. Students will be assessed on how well they play with the SmartMusic generated file, first created by NotePad.

Lesson Extensions

1. Have students do the same type of assignment with audition material (All-District, All-State, etc), or with solo/ensemble material.