

Teaching Tip: Using SmartMusic with a Substitute Teacher



Subject Area: (General Performing Groups)

Grade Range: All Grades

Materials Needed: SmartMusic, computer, sound system/stereo

Below, band director Phil Louden presents his success story. Then, you'll find the lesson plan he left for his substitute teacher. Maybe this account will give you ideas on how SmartMusic and a responsible student or two can make a difference on one of those days you have to be out of the rehearsal room.

--Ray Benton

I had to be out of the class to interview a candidate for a position in our school system and had to ask someone to cover my class. Sam had been sharing that he was letting students run SmartMusic in some of his classes so I started letting some of my students run the computer in my class too.

I hate losing instructional time so I figured that I would let SmartMusic teach my class. Here is my lesson plan below. The tools the students taught each other come right from SmartMusic best practices; ones we use every day in class.

I could tell the teacher was not thrilled about covering my class but when I saw him the next day, he could not believe that 29 sixth graders could work together and run a class while he graded his papers.

Do I think SmartMusic will ever replace me? No, but it's nice to know that I have a resource to use when I am unavailable.

Possible extensions could have been.

Have the class record their best song or exercise.

Record their fastest tempo of a piece.

Record a song not yet played in class.

See how fast they can perform a song the previously learned.

--Phil Louden

Lesson Plan
Period 5
12:10-1:00 p.m.
Woodwind Class

Pick someone to run SmartMusic on computer for class.
Have students review the following songs in Accent of Achievement
Surprise Symphony –Play twice
Climbing Higher- Play solo part while fingering, clap and count with solo line,
then play with accompaniment.

More Eighth Notes- Play solo part while fingering, clap and count with solo line,
then play with accompaniment.

Southern Roses- Play twice, pick a section to play by themselves (flutes, saxes
and tpts, clarinets)
Mexican Jumping Beans, change tempo to 120, clap with solo line, finger with
solo line, play with accompaniment, move tempo to 140 and play with
accompaniment, move tempo to 155 and play with accompaniment. As for
volunteers to play solo at 155, you may want to turn master volume down (dial on
cart) for solo players.

Have students complete Theory Worksheet #4.

Pick someone to run SmartMusic on computer for class.
Have them listen to song with melody line only while fingering notes and then
have them add the accompaniment. If the song is too hard, have them repeat
and slow down.

Two Ways to Play It
Aura Lee Play solo part while fingering, then play with accompaniment. Remind
them about key signatures
Morning from “Peer Gynt” Play solo part while fingering, then play with
accompaniment.
Jolly Old St. Nick Play solo part while fingering, clap and count with solo line,
then play with accompaniment.
Snake Charmer
Bill Grogan’s Goat

Play Holiday Sampler at the End of the Class if time permits.
Turn of computer and put in first practice room. Put projector screen down when
finished.

Thank you.

--Phil Louden