

# Teaching Tips Concert and Contest Literature



Subject Area: All performing groups of any type  
Grade Range: 6-12

Materials Needed: SmartMusic, Finale, 2006 (or 2005), method of projection in classroom-large TV or projector, speaker(s) to play recordings into classroom, computer work station with student access, SmartMusic microphone or other microphone.

- **Before students ever use SmartMusic, have the group watch the SmartMusic videos on how to use the software. Even if using SmartMusic is new to the instructor, students today are quite savvy with technology.**
- **Assign the SmartMusic Operation Terms Worksheet and then give the quiz. Set a standard proficiency score that will ensure that students are ready to use the program. (New students could watch the videos, and do the worksheet, and quiz at any time during the year.)**
- **Students will learn their part or solo quicker if they follow these steps:**
  1. **Perform their selection with: Hear Solo Line, Click On (De-select Hear Accompaniment and De-select Intelligent Accompaniment, and slow the tempo, if needed.)**
  2. **Add Hear Accompaniment**
  3. **Turn Metronome click off**
  4. **De-select Hear Solo**
  5. **Turn Intelligent Accompaniment On**
  6. **Record, analyze, repeat any steps as necessary**
- **When students SAVE individual assessments at work stations; have them save to a folder that you have already created. (For example; create a folder for every class that will be saving their recordings. Then, within that folder, simply have the student save by their full name. Such as: Third Hour; Smith, Suzy. Or, each hour can save by their section, such as: Concert Band, Flutes, student name.) Instructor, aide, or trusted student should back up all data daily to a jump drive or any other device.**
- **Videotape your student recording their ensembles/solos using SmartMusic. Parents and administrators can see technology help your students achieve even more.**
- **Students with School Sponsored Home SmartMusic Subscriptions can rehearse their solos, or Finale created SmartMusic files as often as possible. Also, students may record/save their performance, and e-mail it to their teacher.**

- Save student recordings from early in the year, or from year to year and compare for the students or their parents to hear their progress over time.
- SmartMusic Ensembles or Solo Accompaniments can be created with Finale. See the accompanying instruction pages: Finale 2006 SCANNING DIRECTIONS, and CREATING SMARTMUSIC FILES in Finale 2006. (Scan original scores with ANY brand of scanner using Finale 2006.)
- Use SmartMusic Ensemble Files for sectional rehearsals with your performing group. Students can rehearse parts in practice rooms while the instructor rehearses other sections. This can make rehearsals much more efficient and keep students on task.
- Use Finale Notepad (free download) so that students with School Sponsored Home SmartMusic Subscriptions can rehearse their large group or contest ensemble selections at home.
- Assess students by recording and saving their performance with SmartMusic Ensemble Files.
- Audition soloists in a “blind” audition by having students record the solo and save to a folder with a number that only the student knows. This can eliminate “subjective” decisions on the part of the director and promote student confidence in the equability of instructor decisions. (Also, SAVE this recording for any “disgruntled” students or parents to hear.)