

# smartnotes

the smartmusic e-newsletter



- Note from the President
- SmartMusic 10 and Impact is Here!
- Spotlight on Mike Doll
- Tips and Tricks
- Just Released
- Announcements
- 6th Graders Win High School Band Competition
- Meet the Team

## Introducing SmartNotes – A Note from Ron Raup, President.

MakeMusic, Inc., is committed to helping music educators advance the teaching, learning, and enjoyment of music-making. Coinciding with the introduction of SmartMusic 10.0 and Impact, we're also pleased to introduce you to the inaugural edition of SmartNotes, an electronic newsletter created to keep you informed of new content, best practices, tips and tricks, and other information to support your teaching efforts. We hope you will find SmartNotes an inspiring and useful resource.

Ron Raup  
*President and Chief Operating Officer*

### SmartMusic 10 and Impact is Here!

Have you updated your computer to SmartMusic 10.0? It includes more than 200 large ensemble titles for band, jazz band, and orchestra with on-screen notation, professional audio recordings, and pre-authored assignments for all parts. Best of all, if you're currently subscribing to SmartMusic, 10.0 is free. [More.](#)

Included with every SmartMusic educator subscription is SmartMusic Impact, a web-based grade book offering an effective and efficient way for teachers to guide and document the individual development of every student. [More.](#)

### Spotlight on SmartMusic Educator Mike Doll

"I have a unique challenge: Band students in my school district start in the 7th grade and are expected to catch up with others by the time they reach high school. One tool I've found to be very helpful is SmartMusic, and the results have been astounding! I use SmartMusic in class so students can see how easy it is to use, and when they have SmartMusic at home and practice with it regularly, I see amazing results!



I have implemented a SmartMusic Pass-Off system with all my band classes. Students can practice beyond their weekly assignment in Essential Elements 2000 and get the line passed off if they get a SmartMusic assessment score of 95 or higher. Their scores are e-mailed to me so they can be entered in my grade book. The students start with the first line in

Book 1 and continue in order through the entire book. Their progress is charted weekly on my bulletin board and many come in to compare their progress with other students. I supplement this with inexpensive game-like incentives to encourage more student participation.

This Pass-Off system has been a huge motivator for many of my students. They can now work at their own pace; some students have passed off 20 lines, while others have passed off more than 500 lines! No longer do I get the feeling that the more advanced students are held back, they simply move at their own pace. More importantly, they are practicing their instruments, improving their playing dramatically, and they are having fun doing it! Thanks, SmartMusic!"

 [TOP](#)

### Tips and Tricks

#### **How do I set up my own account to use Impact? Our school currently shares several subscriptions.**

We have a quick process in place to help. Contact Customer Support at 800-843-2066 (Monday through Friday 8:30 AM-5:00 PM Central Time) with the e-mail address of the current account administrator. We can set up your own Impact account in minutes and you can start using Impact right away! There is no cost involved now, however your new account will renew at the normal Educator Base Subscription pricing in the future.

#### **My school or private studio does not appear in the list. What do I do?**

SmartMusic Impact contains a complete list of the current public, private, and parochial schools in the U.S. If your school is not listed, or if you are a private instructor, please contact Customer Support at 800-843-2066 (Monday through Friday 8:30 AM-5:00 PM Central Time) to provide the name and address of your school or studio.

 [TOP](#)

### 6th Graders Win High School Band Competition!

Crossroads Middle School 6th graders from Columbia, South Carolina, won the highest awards at the Dynamic Music Festival Competition in Orlando, Florida, on March 17. Both the concert and symphonic bands were given "Superior" ratings, the highest rating, and the two Crossroads groups scored the highest cumulative scores regardless of class or age. The Crossroads symphonic band was selected as the Grand National Champion. Crossroads' band instructors Lorrie Turner and Tom Henke teach the bands and led them at the competition.

"It's quite an accomplishment for a group of 6th graders, who started the year as absolute beginners, to compete and win against students at the high school level," said Turner, "They've only been playing for seven months."

Turner's and Henke's program is SmartMusic. "It's a one-of-a-kind technology that gives us a huge edge in teaching," said Turner. With the software loaded onto a computer, students connect a small microphone to their musical instrument. Students read the music on-screen and hear how

their part sounds with professional accompaniment. Students receive instant, personalized feedback on their performances.

"A lot of my students are video gamers and this SmartMusic technology interests them," notes Turner. "Kids can take progress into their own hands. If students are learning material easily, they can move quickly; and if the material is proving to be difficult, they can move at a slower pace. My students love recording and listening to themselves."

To get things started with the SmartMusic program, Turner purchased an educator subscription for \$100 after reviewing the program and "immediately seeing things that could help my classes. It only took me a few hours of experimenting with the program to feel comfortable using it with my classes," said Turner. Henke and Turner arranged for 4 laptops to be purchased for their classrooms and added 4 subscriptions at \$25 per year for those computers.

With the help of grants, including a Best Buy grant of \$2,500, Henke and Turner now have 9 laptops in their classrooms. "SmartMusic is a magnet for receiving technology grants," added Turner.

"A good number of our students have signed up for the home subscriptions," notes Turner. The home subscription enables students to practice with SmartMusic on their home computers. The cost is \$25 per year. Turner said, "I'm trying to figure out a way of incorporating that fee into the upfront band fee."

"The Orlando competition was a great experience for our kids. When they heard the judges' decision, they rushed the stage," said Turner, "and during the judges' clinic, one of the judges had a few questions for our students. The first question was, 'How many of you are 6th graders?' and every hand shot up. The second question was, 'How many of you had played an instrument before this school year?' and no one raised a hand. The final question was, 'How many of you use SmartMusic?' and all hands were raised again."

 [TOP](#)

## Just Released

[More than 200 New Titles](#) for band, jazz band, and orchestra plus *Standard of Excellence, Book 2*

## Announcements

### Steps to take before summer break

Don't forget to de-activate your subscription before you leave for the summer. Each summer, many school districts fix or replace computers by cleaning or imaging machines, which will remove your SmartMusic subscription information.

You can prevent the loss of your subscription by doing the following before you leave for the summer:

1. Connect to the Internet
2. Launch SmartMusic
3. Access the Subscription Menu, and choose Move Subscription

This will keep your subscription available to be used on another machine during the summer or to be re-activated when you return from break.

Upon your return in the fall, simply:

1. Install SmartMusic from the CD (or open the program if it was not removed).
2. While connected to the Internet, click Activate and enter your e-mail address and password for SmartMusic.
3. Choose the correct subscription for the computer you're activating, and click OK. SmartMusic will be ready to go!

If you need assistance with this process, please call our SmartMusic Technical Support team at (866) 240-4041 Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM CST or contact us online at [www.smartmusic.com/support](http://www.smartmusic.com/support)

### [Upcoming Events](#)

Minnesota Summer Music Technology Symposium and [more](#).

### [Educator Resources](#)

[^](#) [TOP](#)

## Meet the Team

James Anderson is a MakeMusic employee of three years and is currently a SmartMusic Product Specialist. "I'm in a unique position of being able to advocate for customers when they want to improve SmartMusic and also watching it be developed and seeing how it changes. It's like being a cheerleader and ombudsman all in one." He considers the most interesting part of his current position to be about the very different ways SmartMusic users implement the software in their curriculum, or just the fun ways they find to enhance their musical lives.



James has been playing the trumpet since he was 7 years old. When he was younger he wanted to play the trumpet professionally, without really understanding how difficult a performing career can be. "MakeMusic is a great fit because I can still play professionally, but I have a normal career as well to help keep a stable lifestyle." He primarily freelances in the Twin Cities area for studio and church work. He teaches a small studio of brass players and takes occasional engraving jobs when the time is available. He spends most of his composing time on brass quintet and brass choir music. James loves the trumpet but sometimes wishes he played a different instrument, "The more trombonists I teach, the more I wish I had been a bass trombone player. I love the sound of the instrument; it is fun to play, and that barking beefy low register can really annoy the neighbors."

When James was a teacher, he used SmartMusic to help his students practice scales in interesting patterns, articulations, speeds, and keys. "At that time, I had a lot of low-income students who couldn't afford some of the method books I needed to use, so we spent a lot of time with the exercise portion of SmartMusic." James also uses Finale, "After the introduction of the Linked Parts feature in 2007, I doubt I'll ever open the older versions [of Finale] again for my personal work!"

[^](#) [TOP](#)

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