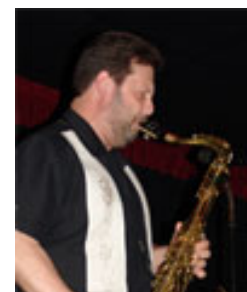




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## "Virtual Instruction Time" by Larry Johnson

I teach band (4th - 8th grade) at St. Joseph's School, in the St Louis area. In this parochial school setting, my students have very limited rehearsal time, alternating between small groups and full rehearsals.



When you have students in a large group setting you can't always tell what's occurring at home with that individual's practice. Since I am the only teacher for 220 children, it's challenging to spend enough time helping every student. Now, with SmartMusic, I can hear what each student is doing and know when they need help. I can modify my curriculum based on my student's progress.

Initially, I made SmartMusic available to my students as an "optional" practice tool. After two years of using SmartMusic this way, SmartMusic became a mandatory component of the instrumental music curriculum. Students use it as a part of their practice routine, quarter assessments, and regular requirements. Students receive a quarterly grade based on the SmartMusic assessment.

SmartMusic is a great way to motivate students. The students who need to work on specific skills can benefit from my assessment of their SmartMusic performance. The kids on the upper end of the scale have a real tool to experience music at a higher level.

Parents have been very enthusiastic about SmartMusic. There is always the challenge of getting new parents up and going with technology, but overall parents have been very positive.

SmartMusic gives music teachers the ability to document student progress. Whether I am concerned about how a student is performing, or if there is a student who is making exceptional progress, I now have a tool that lets me document student achievement. In addition, I can share that information with parents, administrators, or anyone else. It has been a terrific tool to help assess children on many different levels.

My administrators absolutely love that I am using technology to teach music. I have given my principal and my assistant principal access to my Impact Gradebook so they have the opportunity to log on to see what my kids are doing and what kind of assignments I'm writing for them. My principals have shared this concept with other administrators and teachers. In fact, most of my colleagues have become enthusiastic about SmartMusic after they have seen me use it in the classroom.

SmartMusic has become a great tool for me because it has essentially given me "virtual" instruction time with my kids. Now I know what they are doing well and where they need to improve. I think my students are improving dramatically because I'm teaching better with

SmartMusic. The overwhelming majority of students really enjoy SmartMusic. They actually hear themselves improve and they are really motivated to play their instrument.

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### State Fiscal Stabilization Funding (SFSF)

\$48.6 billion in federal stimulus funding is currently being reserved for education. States that have experienced funding reductions now have an opportunity to restore their budget. States that have not had to experience funding reductions can also enhance their budgets based on guidelines found in the SFSF. The goal is to improve student achievement and the funds are not restricted to Title 1 and IDEA initiatives. Find out how [your state](#) is preparing to help you.

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### Tips and Tricks

#### 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. Moving your subscription off your school computer means you can use it on another machine during the summer and easily re-activate it on your school machine when you return from break.

Follow these steps to move your subscription off your school computer before you leave for the summer:

1. Launch SmartMusic.
2. Click "My Account."
3. Click the link "Remove this subscription from this computer."
4. Enter your password to confirm your choice then click "Log-in" then "Next."

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, either from the disc or [www.smartmusic.com/support/updates.aspx](http://www.smartmusic.com/support/updates.aspx), (or simply 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. Select the subscription you want to activate and click OK to finish activating. SmartMusic will be ready to go!

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

#### "Tips for Marching Band" by Scott Yoho

I was recently asked what was the last book I'd read. The answer? Dr. Seuss's ABC. Thankfully I have a toddler at home to serve as an explanation. But reading children's

books daily does influence my thought process, which frequently follows tangents like: "S is for Summer and Sunshine and SmartMusic." "SmartMusic in the summer," you ask? Yes. But there's Method to my Madness and it has to do with Marching.

What if everyone in your marching band had all of their music under their fingertips on the first day of rehearsal? Before you dispel this notion as the type of fantastic nonsense you'd associate with Dr. Seuss, see how easy it is to create SmartMusic accompaniments for the entire marching band in Finale 2009.

Simply open a marching band score you've created in Finale, go to the File menu, and choose "Export to SmartMusic." When prompted, select "Assessment" so you can take advantage of SmartMusic's red and green note assessment feature, hit the Next button a few times, save your file when prompted, and you're done. It really can be that easy – this one file supports your entire ensemble.

If you'd like more in-depth instructions, there's a great SmartMusic QuickStart Video that walks through the process [here](#). After creating the accompaniment, assign it to your students using the SmartMusic Impact Gradebook.

Once your students' returned assignments appear in your Gradebook, you'll either be confident they're ready for Marching Band, or you'll know what areas you'll need to bring to their attention.

### **"Ten SmartMusic Tips for Choral Directors" by Leigh Kallestad**

Many choral directors and vocal coaches ask how they can use SmartMusic with their students. Here are ten ways that SmartMusic can help today:

1. Import any .MP3 or .WAV recording into SmartMusic. Change the key, change the tempo, loop difficult regions, and record your students as they practice the material.
2. Use Finale to enter or scan in a choral score and then save it as a SmartMusic Ensemble file. This offers all the benefits of audio files (listed above) plus the ability to turn on/off any combination of individual parts (SATB, SSA, etc.) or piano accompaniment. This is a great practice tool to help singers learn their music!
3. Adapt SmartMusic's Play-By-Ear Exercises to "Sing-By-Ear." This easily provides call-and-response ear training opportunities as well as being able to record student ear training sessions.
4. Use Beginning Band and String Methods (particularly the less familiar pieces) for sight singing. Have students sing solfege or neutral syllables for ear training and to create recordings.
5. Use SmartMusic to create .MP3 foreign language diction recordings. Record yourself speaking or singing short segments. Leave "space" in your recording to provide "call and response" opportunities for your students to practice – and to record their diction.
6. Use SmartMusic's Rhythm Exercises to have your students practice, record, and assess rhythm drills. Set the instrument to clap/snare/pad and have students clap or tap the rhythms.
7. Use SmartMusic to create audition recordings for honor choirs, scholarship auditions, all-state choirs, college admittance, and more.
8. SmartMusic's solo literature is perfect for practice and performance. Using the Impact Gradebook, you can assign solo recordings and have students submit solo recordings in various stages of preparation. Many states now allow SmartMusic to be used for contest performances.
9. SmartMusic's vocal solos can be instantly transposed to any key - and so can Finale-created solos and ensembles.
10. Use Finale to create custom exercises for your choral warm-ups and export to SmartMusic.

Note that all of the above suggestions can be distributed as student assignments with the Impact Gradebook. If you have additional vocal tips that you would like to share, please send them to: [lkallestad@makemusic.com](mailto:lkallestad@makemusic.com)



## "Concert Preparation with SmartMusic" by Asa Burk

"My students were able to have a more rich and meaningful musical experience."

Asa Burk is the director of bands at the Cross Timbers Middle School in Grapevine, Texas. Below Asa shares his experience with SmartMusic over the past year:



As the last lazy days of summer wind down, I begin to mentally sketch out the rapidly approaching school year. The process begins with a list of tunes that I would be interested in playing for the year. Equipped with a fresh mind and body from the summer break and a rejuvenated spirit from summer conventions, Dr. Tim speeches, and DCI shows, my list tends to be filled with great optimism and idealism. I call it the Luby's syndrome. You go to Luby's Cafeteria and move down the line noting how good everything looks. When you arrive at your table and unload plate after plate, you realize that you have enough food to feed a Southern family reunion. My yearly repertoire wish list begins much the same way. Each year, there are pieces on the list that are quite challenging and difficult to put together. Each year there are pieces on the list that are quite simply fun to play. Each year the list starts out to be quite long. Each year the list is quickly adjusted into reality after the band plays its first few notes at the start of school.

This year, for the two fall semester concerts, I committed myself to selecting music that was available in SmartMusic. After reviewing my list, there were two songs that were not available in SmartMusic. For those two selections, I chose to use Finale to get them into SmartMusic. For a typical concert, I usually allow about six to eight weeks to prepare. That time frame allows us to get the notes and rhythms taught and then address the ensemble and musical issues.

As the preparation window opened for our fall concert, I passed out three pieces of music. At the same time, I used the Impact Gradebook to send the students several SmartMusic assignments for all of the pieces. For the first piece, I taught the traditional way — notes and rhythms were presented in class and section rehearsals after school; I used the SmartMusic assignments to reinforce and review what was previously taught. For the second piece, I taught a blended method — notes and rhythms were presented in class and sectionals concurrent with the SmartMusic assignments. For the third and most difficult piece, I took a risk and taught in reverse — the students completed the SmartMusic assignments before the piece was ever rehearsed in class. I devised this strategy to determine how much I wanted to integrate SmartMusic assignments into my curriculum for future concert preparation. Plus, I wanted to know how effective it really was.

As the rehearsals progressed, the first piece came together as expected. I noticed, however, that as the students completed, the assignments the rate of improvement increased. The second piece came together more quickly than expected. Using the assignments, the students overcame the inherent challenge of this particular piece by knowing how their part fit into the whole. This greatly improved the efficiency of rehearsal. The third piece had the most dramatic results. Given the concert key of G flat and the highly rubato style, this was a more difficult piece than I would normally program for an October concert. I insisted that the students complete all SmartMusic assignments prior to the first rehearsal in class. At the first rehearsal we were able to sight-read the piece with the full group in a recognizable fashion. In rehearsals over the next few weeks we were

able to spend most of our time making music instead of incessant reminders of key signature and watch the conductor on the rubato. The concert came off quite well.

What was the point of all of this? I think we as music educators are always presented with new teaching methods and new teaching tools. As part of our growth as educators and lifelong learners, we should evaluate what methods and tools work and how they can benefit our teaching and ultimately, our students. I also used SmartMusic assignments to help pre-teach the music for our winter concert. The most significant outcome was that we were able to prepare the concert in a shorter amount of time and still maintain the level of difficulty of the music. Either way, programming more challenging music, or utilizing a shorter performance preparation time, my students were able to have a more rich and meaningful musical experience.

Will I use the SmartMusic assignments for our spring performances and competitions? You bet.

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### "SmartMusic on School Computers" by Matt Ferry

Giving your network administrator advance notification before you install software can take the guesswork out of getting new programs to run on your school's network. SmartMusic is no exception, as it requires an Internet connection for activation and to use the web-based Impact Gradebook. Share the following guidelines with your IT Department for a smooth implementation of SmartMusic on your school's network.

#### The "Safe List"

Many school networks have a firewall or filter that only allows access to approved websites. SmartMusic may need to be added to a "safe website list" to allow all components of the repertoire library to download successfully. Adding the following sites to such a list will give you the freedom to install SmartMusic updates and receive new SmartMusic titles to your library at your convenience:

- [www.smartmusic.com](http://www.smartmusic.com) [port 80]
- [updates.smartmusic.com](http://updates.smartmusic.com) [port 80]
- [ws.makemusic.com](http://ws.makemusic.com) [port 443]
- Also add "smartmusic.exe" to the network (and local machine) exception list for your firewall

#### Permission to Launch

Running SmartMusic at school can require a few more steps than at home because school computers are typically set up to support multiple users. In such a scenario, you may not have the Administrator-level access to your computer required to install and register software. Contact your IT department before your SmartMusic kick-off date to ensure that your computer's user account settings will enable a successful installation and activation of SmartMusic. Below you will find SmartMusic's specific IT needs for user accounts:

- SmartMusic needs to be installed on the client machine on drive C:\ (it cannot be run over a network)
- Windows user data files are stored in C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data\MakeMusic
- Macintosh user data files are stored in Macintosh HD >> Library >> Application Support >> MakeMusic
- All users will need to have read/write access to the directory above and allow changes to be written to the Registry.
- SmartMusic is not officially supported in a machine "image" environment - the subscription data is lost on each re-image.

- SmartMusic needs access to download the following file types: .MP3, .MUS, .SMA, .SMP, .TXT, and .DAT.

### All Systems Go

It's a good idea to discuss system requirements with your IT department before purchasing any software for your school, and again SmartMusic is no exception. View SmartMusic's system requirements [here](#). Please note that SmartMusic can be more demanding on your computer hardware than word processing programs or Internet browsers: Quality sound and video cards and additional RAM can provide better playback, faster loading of files, and cleaner on-screen display of music. Also recommended is a SmartMusic microphone. This offers the sensitivity required to assess musical performance that is not typically found in built-in or voice recognition microphones.

### Blast Off

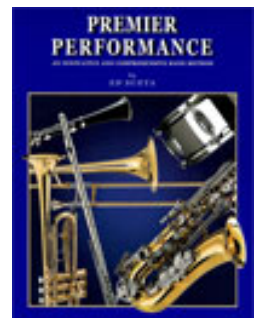
Reviewing the above tips with your IT department before launching SmartMusic will eliminate any computer guesswork and will allow you concentrate on teaching music - and that's really the whole idea.

More information can be found in our on-line [Knowledge Base](#).

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## Just Released

*Premier Performance, Book 1* was just released in February. SmartMusic also includes more than 1,700 [band](#) and [orchestra](#) titles. SmartMusic 11 is required to access the newest repertoire so [download](#) your free update now.



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## Announcements

### New SmartMusic Training Guide

This helpful workbook and accompanying disc is made exclusively for educators and contains information on how to integrate SmartMusic into your curriculum. [Purchase](#) your copy now for only \$24.95, a savings of \$15 (offer expires 5-1-09).

### New Video for Administrators

Share this [short video](#) with school administrators so they can see and hear what SmartMusic offers to your district, school, and students.

### New Resource Center

Need a letter to present SmartMusic to parents, a video to share with your administrators, or instructions on how to create accompaniments in Finale? Visit our new [Getting Started and Resource Center](#).

### SmartMusic for your Entire School or District

Volume pricing is available for a minimum of 100 subscriptions. [More](#).

### Upcoming Events

Come see SmartMusic at the Pennsylvania MEA Conference, Texas Bandmasters Association

Convention, and [more](#).

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### Meet the Team

This year we celebrate Bonnie Anderson's tenth anniversary as MakeMusic's Marketing Communication Manager. "My job involves preparing all of MakeMusic's print materials, including direct mail, packaging, tradeshow signs, and marketing collateral including brochures and flyers."



Bonnie grew up on the north shore of Lake Superior. Perhaps the ingrained image of this, the "[List of lakes by area](#)" largest freshwater lake in the world (by surface area), helps her maintain a balanced perspective as she juggles her Herculean list of responsibilities at MakeMusic.

Bonnie joined the choir in junior high school, and has enjoyed the benefits of singing with others ever since. She sang for 24 years in a 75-voice sanctuary choir at a large Minneapolis church where she, "had the opportunity to revel in a great repertoire of classical choral literature." Among the many highlights was a 50-person trip to the Baltics and Russia in 2005, where they sang five concerts.

Bonnie's many interests include theater and opera, movies, cooking, travel, home improvement, book club, and getting together with friends and family – especially her nieces and nephews. Thanks to the skills she learned at her family's greenhouse, Bonnie is MakeMusic's go-to plant doctor.

Bonnie has also earned her stripes managing MakeMusic's booth at several NAMM shows where she greatly enjoyed meeting our customers face-to-face and talking shop: "I have always been enthused by the inventiveness of the new features in our software and the great feedback we receive from musicians of all ages."

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