

## **Recommended Software**

Sibelius 4 - [www.sibelius.com](http://www.sibelius.com) (\$225)  
Sibelius Compass - [www.sibelius.com](http://www.sibelius.com) (\$159)  
Sibelius Groovy Music - [www.sibelius.com](http://www.sibelius.com) (\$69)  
Finale 2006 - [www.makemusic.com](http://www.makemusic.com) (\$225)  
PrintMusic (“lite” version of Finale) (\$60.00)  
NotePad (basic use - similar to PrintMusic and Finale) FREE  
[www.finalenotepad.com](http://www.finalenotepad.com)

## **Resource materials & lesson plans**

Book: Strategies for Teaching: Technology (MENC)  
[www.menc.org](http://www.menc.org)  
Software: Sibelius Notes [www.sibelius.com](http://www.sibelius.com)  
Software: Sibelius Compass [www.sibelius.com](http://www.sibelius.com)  
Vermont MIDI website [www.vtmidi.org](http://www.vtmidi.org)  
Technology Institute for Music Educators  
([www.ti-me.org](http://www.ti-me.org)) Members section > Lesson plans

## **Start with the basics...**

Do **not** just start composing...  
Music Theory Background  
    Use notation software to write assignments  
    Use Sibelius Worksheets or create your own  
    Use music notation software to compose scales, chords and  
    other exercises

## **Editing and Modifying Existing Pieces**

Drag or transpose given notes to new locations  
    Transcribe a familiar melody by ear into standard notation  
    (Strategies for Teaching – page 56)  
Copy and paste patterns to create a melody  
Add expressive elements to compositions  
Arrange excerpts enhancing the expressive effect of the music  
(Strategies for Teaching page 135)  
Add chords – tonic and dominant to a given melody  
Transpose tonality of an existing exercise (Sibelius Teaching Tools  
page 102)

## **Arranging Compositions**

Sibelius Teaching Tools:

Arrange a piano piece for 2 instruments (pg. 106)

Arrange an SATB score for 4 instruments

Compose a canon for 4 voices (Frere Jacques)

Transcribe an instrumental piece for SATB voices Strategies for Teaching – page 116.

Transcribe a duet or trio for three instruments – Strategies for Teaching – page 90

## **Adding melodies, chords and accompaniments to existing songs**

### **Rounds (search for Rounds in Sib4 Worksheets)**

Copy/paste melody - Frere Jacques

Add percussion parts

Add an original accompaniment

Question/answer (Tension/Release) Strategies for Teaching, page 46

Theme and Variations projects – Vermont MIDI

## **Adding melodies, chords and accompaniments to existing songs...**

Create an accompaniment – fill in the blank measures

Sibelius Teaching Tools page 118.

Compose a blues melody using the blues scale over 12 bar blues in C

Sibelius Teaching Tools page 136

Composing melodies to existing chord changes

Sibelius Teaching Tools page 128.

## **Composing Original Compositions from Scratch**

Select an existing song such as Lightly Row

Analyze it

Compose a song using the same chord progress and melodic movement.

Select another song, perhaps more difficult. Analyze it and then compose a song in this style.

Compose a duet basing the melody and harmony on a Korean Folksong style (Pentatonic Scale)

Strategies for Teaching – page 114

Composing a song in a specific form such as ABA, Rondo, 12-Bar Blues and so forth.

### **Sibelius Compass**

Stand-alone application

Tutorials

Composition Projects

Does not use a notation approach

Can be used in conjunction with Sibelius

May take a while to become comfortable with the software interface

### **Sibelius Groovy Music**

Designed for ages 5-11

Teaches musical concepts via non-standard notation

Record from a MIDI keyboard

Composing music using concepts taught in earlier modules

### **Teaching Strategies**

Use one or a several computers in the music classroom

Take the class to the computer lab – use free software or purchase a site license

Teach in the Music Department MIDI lab

Encourage students to download free software or purchase software and compose at home.

### **Training and Support**

Seek out training in the use of computers and technology

Technology Institute for Music Educators

([www.ti-me.org/ti-me/summer.html](http://www.ti-me.org/ti-me/summer.html))

Join Music Education Technology Organizations:

TI:ME ([www.ti-me.org](http://www.ti-me.org)) FREE 30-day trial

[www.ti-me.org/trial.html](http://www.ti-me.org/trial.html)

ATMI ([www.music.org/atmi/default.htm](http://www.music.org/atmi/default.htm))