

Student Composition using Sibelius Notation Software



Thomas Rudolph, Ed. D.
Director of Music
School District of Haverford Township
email: tom@tomrudolph.com
www.tomrudolph.com

Recommended Notation Software

- Sibelius 5 - \$225 education price from www.soundtree.com
- Sibelius Student - \$99.00
- Sibelius First - \$129.00
- Finale 2009 - \$225 education price
- Finale PrintMusic - \$75
- Finale NotePad - \$10

Resource materials & lesson plans

- Book: Strategies for Teaching: Technology (MENC)
 - > www.menc.org
- Sibelius Worksheets (Included with Sibelius 4 and 5)
- Vermont MIDI website
 - > <http://www.vtmidi.org/AtoC.html>
- Technology Institute for Music Educators
(www.ti-me.org) Members section > Lesson plans
- Book: Alfred MusicTech Series:
“Composing Music with Notation” by Richmond et al.
- SoundTree www.soundtree.com - click on “lesson plans”

Editing and Modifying Existing Pieces

1. Drag or transpose given notes to new locations
 - Transcribe a familiar melody by ear into standard notation
(Strategies for Teaching - page 56)
2. Add expressive elements to compositions
3. Arrange excerpts enhancing the expressive effect of the music (Strategies for Teaching page 135)
4. Add chords - tonic and dominant to a given melody
5. Transpose tonality of an existing exercise
6. Alfred MusicTech - Unit 1 - activity 1.6
- Copy and paste “Are You Sleeping”
7. Other Rounds from Sibelius Worksheets

Arranging Compositions

- 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
- Alfred MusicTech - Unit 2 - page 21
 - Rebuilding London Bridge
 - Mozart's Minuet Builder
- Composing using Contrapuntal Devices
 - www.soundtree.com - lesson plans

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

- Alfred MusicTech
12-bar Blues Unit 4, page 41.
- Composing melodies to existing chord changes
 - Sibelius Worksheets:
UK Projects > Jazz Arranging

Theme and Variations Projects

■ Alfred Music Tech Series

- Unit 5 - Page 48
Twinkle, Twinkle variations
- Haydn's Symphony #94
- Amazing Grace

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.
- Alfred Music Tech Series
 - Unit 3 - 16 bar song form - page 29
- Vermont MIDI - Beethoven Copycat
 - <http://www.vtmidi.org/AtoC.html>

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