



OPTIMAL ARRANGING: TOOLS FOR SUCCESSFUL MUSICAL ADAPTATIONS

Dr. Alyssa Grey & Dr. Kelsey Shields

agrey@berry.edu kelseyshields@sbcglobal.net

REPERTOIRE SELECTION: PUBLIC DOMAIN

- Pre-1926 and no copyright renewed
- Research it: Public Domain Information Project website
- Find Sheet Music:
 - BandMusic PDF
 - ChoralWiki
 - IMSLP
- Expanding Musical Horizons: Smithsonian Folkways

REPERTOIRE SELECTION: COPYRIGHTED WORKS

- Music legally owned by songwriters and composers
- Need permission to arrange before starting and can be \$
- NAFME Copyright page
- Music familiar to students
- ArrangeMe: a permissions and publishing alternative
 - Must make arrangement publicly available
 - No short-term availability
 - No medleys
 - 10% commission

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE WRITING

- Players' strengths and weaknesses
- Ideal forms
- Instruments and their roles
 - Melody, harmonic support, and rhythmic support
 - Don't forget rests!
 - SATB function
 - Resource: Vienna Symphonic Library

VIENNA SYMPHONIC LIBRARY

1st Suite for Military Band - March
Gustav Holst

00:00
02:59

Instrumentology

- > Strings
- > Brass
 - Introduction
 - Piccolo Trumpet
 - Trumpet in C
 - Bass Trumpet
 - Horn in F
 - Wagner Tuba
 - Tenor Trombone
 - Bass Trombone
 - Contrabass Trombone
 - Cimbasso
 - Bass Tuba
 - Contrabass Tuba
- > Woodwinds
- > Percussion

Related

SYNCHRON-ized Special Editions
Big Bang Orchestra
VI Brass Bundle

Range of brass instruments

Instrument	Range (Notes)
Piccolo trumpet	D4 - F6
Trumpet in C	F#3 - C6
Bass trumpet	E2 - C5
Horn in F	B1 - F5
Tenor trombone	E2 - F5
Bass trombone	Bb0 - F5
Contrabass trombone	Ab0 - C5
Cimbasso	F1 - F4
Bass tuba in F	D1 - G4
Contrabass tuba in Bb	Ab0 - Bb3

8^{va}

C1 C2 C3 C4 Middle C C5 C6

Early history

ADAPTING PRE-EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS: INSTRUMENT SUBSTITUTIONS

Original Instrument

1. Flute
2. Oboe
3. Clarinet
4. Bassoon
5. Alto Sax
6. Tenor Sax
7. Bari Sax
8. Trumpet
9. French Horn
10. Trombone
11. Euphonium
12. Tuba



Brass Substitute

1. Trumpet/Picc. Trumpet
2. Trumpet (muted)
3. Trumpet
4. French Horn/Bass Trb.
5. French Horn
6. Trombone/Fr. Horn
7. Trombone/Bass Trb.
8. Fr. Horn/Trombone
9. Trombone/Flugelhorn
10. Euphonium/Horn
11. Trombone/Bass Trb.
12. Bass Trb./Euphonium



Woodwind Substitute

1. Oboe/Clarinet
2. Flute/Clarinet
3. Flute/Oboe
4. Bass Clarinet
5. Clarinet
6. Bass Clarinet
7. Bass Clarinet/Bassoon
8. Alto Sax/Tenor Sax
9. Alto Sax
10. Bari Sax
11. Bass Clarinet/Bassoon
12. B. Sax/B. Clar./Bassoon

MAKING IT MUSIC: COMPOSITIONAL TECHNIQUES

Auxiliary Forms

Introductions, transitions, modulations

Add Variation to Repetition & Contrast

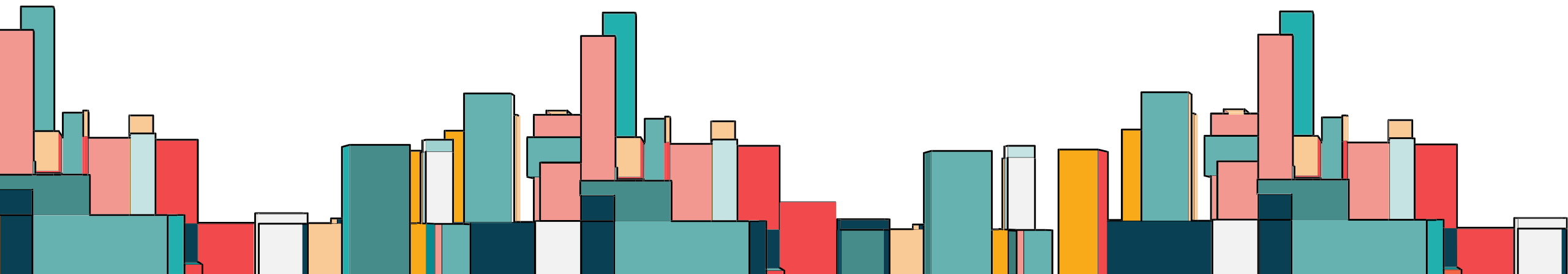
Rhythmically, harmonically, and melodically.
Augmentation, diminution, reharmonization.
Altering key, mode, and/or meter.

Textural Variety

Homophony, polyphony, heterophony

Musical Devices Galore

Ostinato, sequences, quotations



MAKING IT LEGIBLE: CLEAN PARTS AND SCORES CHECKLIST

Tempo markings

Measure numbers

Rehearsal marks

Dynamics

Articulations

Cautionary accidentals

Visual collisions

Multimeasure rests

Cues

Play/rest balance

MUSIC NOTATION SOFTWARE OPTIONS

Finale

- Flat rate fee
- Academic version includes private instructors
- Steeper learning curve than Sibelius
- Built-in worksheets and repertoire

Sibelius

- Subscription-based with three pay tiers
- Private instructors ineligible for academic version
- Desktop and app versions
- MIDI export to Pro Tools
- Easy to pick up and use

OTHER SOFTWARE OPTIONS

MuseScore

- Free!
- More features than free Sibelius

Dorico

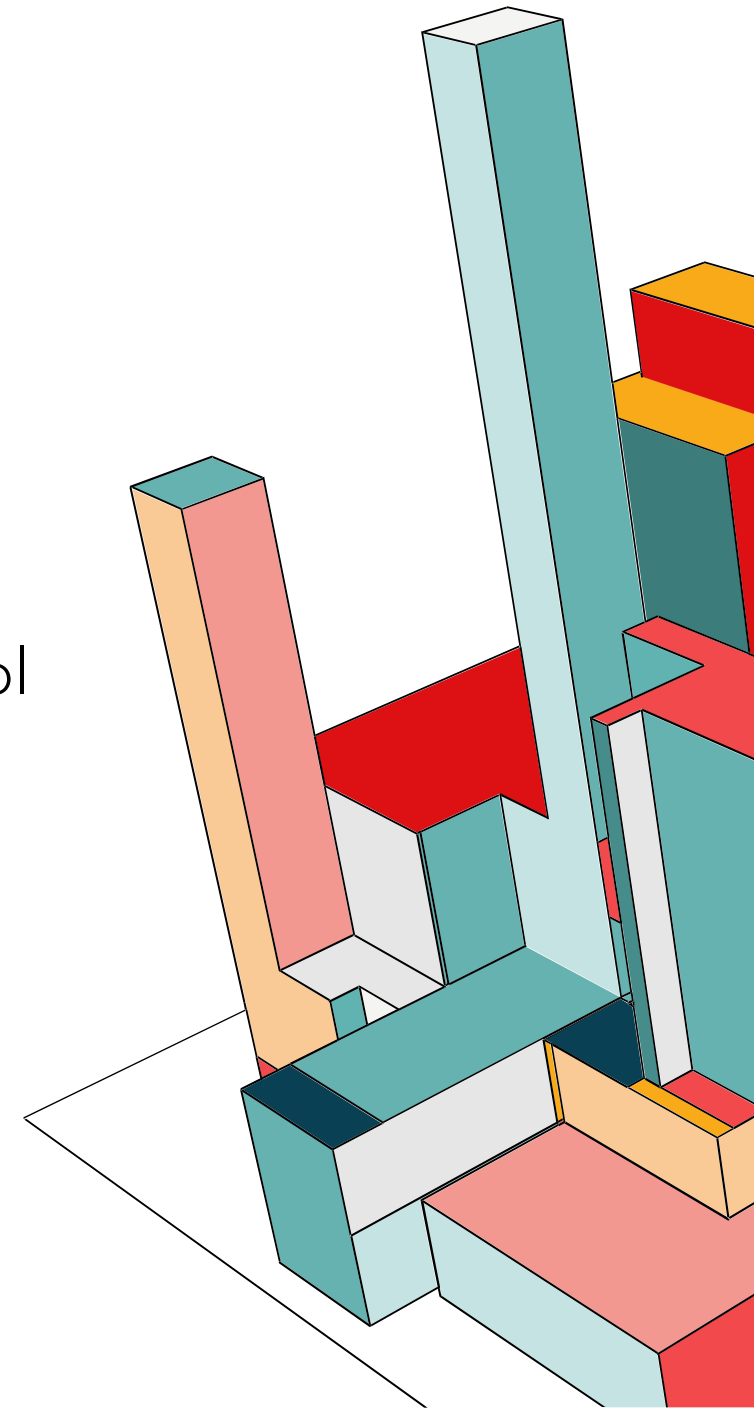
- Newer product to watch
- Enhanced MIDI playback
- Integrates with Cubase

Notion

- Desktop and app versions
- Integrates with StudioOne

Overall Suggestions

- Utilize free trials
- Your specific needs
- Compatibility with school and/or cowriters



An abstract graphic on the left side of the page consisting of several 3D rectangular bars of varying heights and colors. The colors include red, teal, orange, and brown. The bars are arranged in a way that suggests a bar chart or a data visualization, with some bars being taller than others and some overlapping.

SUMMARY

Pick a Piece

Make a Musical Plan

Use a Variety of Musical Techniques

Use Software for Ease and Legibility

QUESTIONS?

QR Code
(link to handouts)



agrey@berry.edu
kelseyshields@sbcglobal.net

