

Optimal Arranging: Tools for Successful Musical Adaptations

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Repertoire Selection

Repertoire Type/ Characteristics	Public Domain	Copyrighted Music
Definition	Any music written before 1926 that has not had its copyright renewed	Music legally owned by songwriters and composers
Characteristics	Either well-known or unknown music; an opportunity to incorporate new genres and styles; can use without permission	Typically well-known music; need legal permission before arranging, which can be costly
Publication Options	Self-publish, sheet music publishers, sites like SheetMusicPlus/ArrangeMe	ArrangeMe (owned/operated by Hal Leonard) holds 4 million+ copyrighted songs you can arrange without other permission (must publish for universal availability and no competitive use)
Links	-Public Domain Information Project: https://www.pdinfo.com/ -BandMusic PDF Library: https://bandmusicpdf.org/ -ChoralWiki: http://www.cpd.org/wiki/ -IMSLP: imslp.org -Smithsonian Folkways: https://folkways.si.edu/	-ArrangeMe: https://www.arrangeme.com/ -NAfME Copyright Guidelines: https://nafme.org/my-classroom/copyright/

Preliminary Considerations Before Writing

- Know each player's and/or ensemble's strengths and weaknesses
- Ideal form(s)
 - * ABA
 - * Theme and Variations
 - * 32-bar AABA form
- Instrument Registers
 - * Which SATB role does each instrument serve?
 - * [Vienna Symphonic Library](#)
 - * If pre-existing publication, analyze parts and make substitutions as necessary:

Instrument	Option 1	Option 2
Trumpet	Clarinet	Alto Saxophone
French Horn	Alto Sax	Trombone/Flugelhorn (range permitting)
Trombone/Euphonium	Baritone Saxophone/Bass Clarinet	Flugelhorn (range permitting)
Bass Trombone/Tuba	Bass	Piano
Alto Saxophone	Clarinet	French Horn
Tenor Saxophone	Trombone	Euphonium
Baritone Saxophone	Euphonium/Trombone/Bass Trombone	Bass Clarinet
Bass	Piano	Tuba
Piano	Vibraphone + Guitar	

Making it Music: Compositional Techniques

- Add auxiliary sections to the basic form (introductions, transitions, modulations, etc.)
- Employ a variety of textures
 - * Canon: melody with one or more imitations played after a given duration (measure, phrase, etc.)
 - * Fugue: longer melody repeated with variations, generally alternating between tonic/dominant
 - * Heterophony: multiple variations of one melody happening at the same time
- Creating variation
 - * Augmentation: lengthening rhythmic values or increasing the interval with a chord.
 - * Diminution: shortening rhythmic values or decreasing the interval with a chord.
 - * Reharmonization: changing underlying harmonic structure while maintaining the melody
 - * Passing the melody to different instruments or sections
 - * Alter the key, mode, and/or meter
- Other Musical Devices
 - * Ostinato: repeating musical phrases, notes, or rhythm patterns
 - * Sequence: repetition of a melody at a higher or lower pitch
 - * Quotation: referencing another piece of music

Making it Legible: Clean Parts and Scores Checklist

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ◇ Tempo markings | ◇ Cautionary accidentals |
| ◇ Measure numbers | ◇ Visual collisions/spacing |
| ◇ Rehearsal marks | ◇ Multimeasure rests and cues |
| ◇ Dynamics and articulations | ◇ Play/rest balance |

Music Notation Software Options

- Finale
 - * Flat rate (upgrade to latest version at a discount)
 - * \$99 for students, \$350 for academic/theological (including private instructors), \$600 for individuals
 - * Steeper learning curve than Sibelius
 - * Built-in worksheets and repertoire
- Sibelius
 - * Subscription-based service with three tiers (First, Sibelius, and Ultimate)
 - * Payment tiers: Free, \$99, \$99 for students and teachers (no private instructor eligibility)/\$199 individuals per year
 - * Desktop and app versions
 - * MIDI can be exported to Pro Tools
 - * Easy to pick up and use
- Other Music Notation Software
 - * MuseScore (free)
 - * Dorico (enhanced MIDI playback, integrates with Cubase)
 - * Notion (desktop and app versions, integrates with StudioOne)
- Overall Suggestions
 - * Utilize free trials
 - * Think about your specific needs
 - * What does your school or co-writer use?

QR Code for Repertoire Selection Links, Finale & Sibelius Tutorials, and PowerPoint->

