

## June 8<sup>th</sup> Lesson Plan:

Hello SMP musicians...

Most of you did it! We recorded almost all of those of you taking online lessons and many of our tutors as well last week. The staff of SMP is so impressed with the focus on the performance piece and your bravery as you contributed videos to our final concert. Thank you! This week, we'll be catching up with the remainder of you who need to record. If you already recorded, you're now done with *March of the Metro Gnome* or *New Orleans Strut*. We only have two more lessons before school is out for summer so here are some options for your final two lessons:

- **High priority** – if you haven't made a recording for our virtual gig yet, Aja will need that THIS WEEK for sure.
- If you're interested in performing a recorded recital piece then let Aja know right away ([aja@seattlemusicpartners.org](mailto:aja@seattlemusicpartners.org)). We'll be choosing the top three entries to include in our virtual concert! This week's lesson will probably be spent recording YOUR recital piece so be prepared. We'll also need to know the title, composer, and arranger of your piece for our program. This is like the ultimate **Star Time** and you are the star!
- If you haven't taken SMP's Post-Assessment yet, we'll take care of that during this week's lesson. If you'd like to get that done ahead of time, here's the link to copy and paste into your browser:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1IV3\\_ryQcUnPugO-g3ypP6pz8Tra66Xpn\\_CRMFSyG9bM/edit?usp=drive\\_web](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1IV3_ryQcUnPugO-g3ypP6pz8Tra66Xpn_CRMFSyG9bM/edit?usp=drive_web)
- If all of the options above don't apply to you, it's time for a regular ol' lesson plan!....

**Beginning Strings:** We've focused on our gig tune for so long, it's time to go back and review (whew!). For now, the D Major scale is super important. Start by reviewing the shaded box at the top of page 14. Name the notes, review the fingerings, play it pizz and then play it *arco* (with bow). Choose any of the tunes on page 14 and 15 (they all use the same 8 notes) and play them at different *tempos* (speeds) with a metronome. The shaded box just above #44 is important...notice how the two sharped notes in the scale at the top of page 14 are F# and C#? Well, with a *Key Signature*, they've put those two sharps right after your clef sign to tell you those notes will be sharped in the piece of music. Because of Key Signatures, composers don't have to label every F and C with a sharp sign (which would make the page look cluttered). As a fun introduction to composition, complete exercise #46. Use any of the same 8 notes to make your own tune!

**Advanced Orchestra:** At your level of playing, you MIGHT have completed all the exercises in your book. If that's true, let's focus on Minuet No. 1 on page 46. This Bach (composer) piece has all the ingredients you've covered in the book and is the perfect way to show what you've learned. After working on it by yourself, add the piano part (lower half of the page) by using this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cELr7CoVcuk>. It's important to note that Higgins (the arranger) uses the key of G Major (no C#) but the tune uses BOTH C# and C Natural throughout so watch out for those accidentals! Trivia question: Do you know why the C natural in bar 17 is in parentheses?

**Beginning Band:** We've focused on our gig tune for so long, it's time to go back and review (whew!). For a good warm-up and review, let's have the flutes and clarinets play #43. Brass and percussion can use #35 (snare – try to make your buzz rolls as long as possible so they connect with the next beat). One technique we all need work on is to know when to tongue a note and when to slur to a note. For that, let's review #56 and #57. The easiest way to understand this is to know that in #56, you'll start each measure by tonguing and you'll complete each measure by NOT tonguing. Trombones – this is an odd concept for you so here's a video that helps: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSQ6nsNH\\_zI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSQ6nsNH_zI)

**Advanced Band:** You'll all soon realize that the most important scale is the "Concert Bb" scale. Only bands use the term "Concert" before saying the name of a scale. It's because all band instruments are made in different keys (Eb sax, Bb trumpet, F french horn, etc.). This will be explained in middle school but for now, look at #88 and play it often enough to memorize the first line (the second line isn't as important). If you can memorize this scale, you'll be able to play 90% of your 6<sup>th</sup> grade band music next year! Another topic which will help you prepare for middle school is time signatures that are NOT 4/4. This book, and your 6<sup>th</sup> grade year, uses 4/4 most of the time but you'll also encounter 2/4, 3/4, and possibly 6/8. For this week, do a scavenger hunt through your band book to find pieces that are not in 4/4. Here's a handy video that helps: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkMwNOpl2P4>