

March 27th Lesson Plan

Hi SMP students! As you know, every Friday, SMP will be posting two Activity Sheets and Lesson Plans so you can spend a bit of time focused on improving your instrumental skills. Last week, you all got links to recordings of each of our concert pieces and now we can zero in on some specific spots in those tunes.

Beginning Band:

#78. Take a pencil and write in a flat sign on the first note of measure 3 and 7. Also, write in a natural sign on the third note in those same measures. For this week, practice those two measures making sure the first note is FLAT and the next two notes are NATURAL. Snare drums should focus on the "flams" in measures 1,3,8.

#81. The "one-measure repeat sign" is used in this piece because the song is so repetitive. Although you're only learning how to play four measures, the piece is actually eight measures long! This would be a great tune for you to play with an online SMP friend!

New Orleans Strut. Trombones, this piece features YOU for the first 8 measures so work on that until it's clean! Also, be careful about E Natural (2nd position) and E Flat (3rd position). Percussion - focus on the bell part for now; we can always add the simple snare/bass part later.

Advanced Band:

Procession for a New Day. If you have tiny little mini-notes anywhere in this piece, they're called "Cue Notes." Even though they're actually for someone else to play, we'd like you all to play your Cue Notes. Take a pencil and write "Play" wherever your cue notes start. Although we'll perform this piece at 120 (metronome speed), you should all practice it at around 80 for now (snare drum should practice at 60).

Montego Bay. You'll all need a pencil...circle any instance where it says "div." or "unis". Whenever it's a "div" (divisi or divided), you'll all need to play the TOP notes. You can ignore all the bottom notes. Wherever it says "div" it means the divided parts are now done and everyone plays in unison (same notes). Because it's kind of odd to look at divisi notes, practice just those measures for now so your eyes get used to looking at only the top notes.

Beginning Strings:

#116. Take a pencil and cross out the first note (it's an A on count 4) of this piece. Also, add a quarter rest in the empty space after the final note. Finally, write "Play twice" at the beginning because we'll repeat this piece so it's a bit longer. Work toward smooth string crossings.

#125. Again, cross out the first note (it's a D on count 4) of this piece. Again, add a quarter rest in the space after the final note (where it says, "Where is beat 4?"). Lastly,

find the brackets (looks like some notes are underlined) and make sure your fingers stay down during bracketed passages.

March of the Metro Gnome. Cellos, it'll be up to you to keep a VERY steady tempo so use a metronome (understand the title now?) set to around 80. All beginning violins should have the 2nd Violin part. Note all the bowing markings!

Advanced Orchestra:

#192. Violins - You'll all be on the A part but feel free to join another SMP violinist online if you'd like to try the A and B parts together! The A part has LOTS of slurs so make sure your bow stays in the same direction during each slur. This will require you to practice at a very slow tempo until your slurs are accomplished and easy. Viola and Cellos, most musicians rush the B part because of all the long notes. Use a metronome set at around 70 and give long notes their full value.

Dragon Hunter. One point you need to know is that every time you have a rest in this piece (except the last two measures) someone else is playing. You'll notice that if you listen to the recording. This can be unsettling for young musicians but "play" your rests with confidence! Note all the written bowings and the circle the "pizz" at 36. Although we'll perform this at 112 (metronome speed), I'd recommend working on it at around 80 or 90.