Using MuseScore in an Ensemble Setting

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PHILOSOPHY

MuseScore is a wonderful free tool you can use in any context. This session seeks to provide attendees with use cases for notation software in an ensemble context.

Outcomes

- Provide you with real-life examples of MuseScore in ensembles
- Provide you with formatting tips for flip folders and oversized music

WHAT IS MUSESCORE?

- Free software
- Realistic sounds
    - Some free, others paid
- Sound effect library
    - Some free, others paid

Things to Consider

- What are you writing?
    - Custom arrangement, new part, rewriting a difficult part, etc.
- Who are you writing for?
    - Students, other music teachers, yourself?

HOW TO USE MUSESCORE

Create a New Score

- Time signature, key signature, number of measures, tempo can all be changed later

Instrumentation

- Change at any time using the Layout menu
- Display the score in concert pitch and then transpose at the click of a button

Note Input

- Shortcuts
    - N for Note Input, toggle on and off

    - 3 means sixteenth note, 4 means eighth note, 5 means quarter note, 6 means half note, 7 means whole note
    - Input notes by typing note names. It will go to the nearest octave using typical voice leading rules.
- Input chords by holding Shift, e.g., for a C major chord type C, hold Shift, then type E and G
    - Add extensions by typing the next letter. MuseScore will build the chord by ascending pitches.

USING MUSESCORE IN AN ENSEMBLE

Use Cases

- Create custom warm-ups
- Display excerpts
- Rewrite parts
- Create your own arrangements
- Transcribe and re-format parts
- Create tablature for guitar students

FORMATTING TRICKS

For Flip Folders

- Format → Page Settings
- Landscape, 1 sided
- W 7.00in x H 5.25in
- Staff space 0.049
- Top margin 0.19, Bottom margin 0, L/R margin 0.29

For Oversize Scores

- Format → Page Settings…you can set the paper size to 11x17 or another custom measurement

Engraving Tips

- Make sure all your fonts are the same
    - You can download your favorite fonts and put them in MuseScore
- You can change all fonts in Format→Style→Text Style
- You can change the default engraving font to jazz font or a clean, Finale-like font by going to Format→Style→Score and selecting *MuseJazz* or *Finale Maestro*