

Objectives:

- Students will choose the orchestration for “This Old Man,” and experiment with instrument timbre.
- Students will select an appropriate song ending.
- Students will compose a 2 measure song ending using specific guidelines.

Materials:

- SmartMusic: Accent on Achievement book 1
- Finale PrintMusic
- SmartBoard template “random instrument selector.”
- Composition Project worksheets

Process:

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- Play each part with SmartMusic
 - Use the random instrument selector to divide parts.

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- Play all together – remind students about dynamics. Afterwards, play with the correct orchestration.
- “What are some reasons a composer might choose to orchestrate the piece this way?”
 - Certain instruments blend together well.
 - More interesting for music to feature smaller sections at times verses the whole band playing all of the time.

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- Students create their own orchestration of “This Old Man” in their lesson books. Student volunteers will share their orchestration by using the SmartBoard slide. Students may combine instruments that typically play together or experiment with unusual combinations. The group will play the different arrangements.
 - “It’s remarkable how different a piece can sound when we orchestrate it differently.”

Composition Project: Week 1

- 1.) “We will begin our composition unit by choosing a song ending. Some endings may sound better than others. At the end of each song ask yourself “Does this song sound finished?”
 - a. Play through the song with each ending. Don’t discuss your opinions in between songs.
 - b. Take a class poll to see who voted for each ending. Discuss endings 2 and 3 and why they may have been less popular.
- 2.) Students will compose their own song ending. They must use the given pitches and end on concert B flat. Any rhythm we have learned is fair game as long as each measure has 4 beats.
 - a. Play through the song together and ask students to try to make up an ending in their mind.
 - b. Remind students to use correct stem direction and their neatest writing.
 - c. Allow one student to write their ending on Finale PrintMusic to be played for the class
 - i. Choose a student that normally doesn’t volunteer to play alone.
 - d. Ask for student volunteers to play their endings for the class. Comment on the variety and creativity of the work.

Wrap-Up

You have successfully written a song ending. This is one important aspect of writing a full song. We also discovered that in this key signature, it typically sounds good to end on concert B flat.