FOR Teachers WHO WANT TO ARRANGE

Lesson 1
Leveling for Arrangements

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Writing Teacher Duets

REVIEW:
1. Write the student part first. Be sure to put “Student plays one octave higher,” etc.
2. Sketch out blank measures on staff paper to match the student part.
3. Identify the LOWEST NOTES in the STUDENT LH and indicate your possible RH TOP NOTES on the blank measures:

4. Proofread for overlaps or hand “bumps” between teacher RH and student LH.

The following pages have an Elementary-level student part written on the staff. Arrange a teacher duet for this music:

- Write both hands on a single bass staff
- RH notes are upstem, LH notes are downstem.
- You may use a key signature for the duet part, even if the student part uses accidentals.

Follow the cues in the score for the “possible top notes” for the teacher’s RH.

Two Voices in One Hand

When filling in the harmony of your arrangement, you will often need to write two voices (separate parts) in one hand.

When writing two voices in one hand on the same staff:
- the UPPER VOICE notes have stems going up
- the LOWER VOICE notes have stems going down

1. Add upper voice notes to the music below. You may choose any notes and rhythms you like, as long as you can play both voices with only your RH.

2. Add lower voice notes to the music below. You may choose any notes and rhythms you like, as long as you can play both voices with only your LH.
Arranging
Exercises & Assignments

Arrange an Elementary Piece with Teacher Duet

Arrange an Early-Elementary or Elementary piece with a teacher duet part.

This is a 5-Finger arrangement, meaning the melody is divided between the hands.
Choose your piece by making sure it fits the following:

- avoid 8th notes; if necessary, it can be tricky between hands;
- musical concepts are level-appropriate (see leveling charts);
- a melody that approximately fits the span of an octave or less;
- a melody that fits under the student's hands easily; adjust the key signature accordingly—no thumbs on black keys, etc. Keys of F and G work well with students' thumbs on/near “Middle C” 5-finger pattern;
- try to limit to 32 measures.

Blank measures are given for you on the following pages. Use as many measures as you need; you may use separate staff paper.

Be sure that the student and teacher have the same number of measures on each page.

AFTER arranging the student part, write a teacher duet!

Remember to go through the student part and mark the possible "top notes" for the duet's RH, to avoid overlaps and hand bumps.

You may use a key sig. for the teacher duet, but write accidentals for the student.

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Add the Harmony

Finish arranging the Early Intermediate piece on the following pages (“The First Noel”). The melody and chord symbols are given.

First, sketch a LH part—then, fill in the harmony between your LH part and the melody. You may decide to change some things in the LH as you add the harmony.

Basic chord symbols are in bold. However, see the non-bold harmony cues I’ve added to the chord symbols—mostly bass-note movement by using slash chords. This makes a more interesting arrangement than if the basic chords were used.

When adding harmony, you will need to flip some stems in RH; just scribble over the written melody. Later, you can create a clean copy by hand or on a software program.

Remember to write with a thin texture:
- delete the 5th of the chord;
- delete unnecessary doubled notes;
- pare down to the essential notes: melody, 3rd, and 7th

Add fingering, tempo markings, and dynamics. Adding pedal and lyrics is optional.

Be sure there's balance between movement and non-movement as it relates to the melody and accompaniment.

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The First Noel

Lesson 5, page 2
Additional Downloads

3 Ways to Thin Texture

1. Delete the 9th of the chord.

2. Delete unnecessary doubled notes.

3. Pare down to the essential notes: melody, 3rd, and 7th.

Leveling for Arrangements

Early Elementary ("5-Finger")
- Uses notes on staff from Bass G to Treble G
- Avoids 8th notes
- Sharps and flats are written as accidentals (no key signature used)
- No or minimal hands-together
- Add lyrics

Elementary
- Notes on staff from Bass G to Treble G
- Sharps and flats mostly written as accidentals (can use Keys of G and F)
- Emphasizes legato and scordatura touches
- Root-position triads and intervals up to 5th
- Simple 8th-note rhythms
- More hands-together
- Use of 1st/2nd endings
- Pick-up measure (upbeat)

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“For Teachers Who Want to Arrange”—Course Concepts by Lesson

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  Writing Teacher Duets  
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Lesson 6  **Capturing the Essence**
  Essential Riffs  
  Instrumental Parts  
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  Capture Pop and Rock Features  
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Lesson 7  **Pop & Rock Form**
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