

Teaching Music in the Virtual World

Some items to consider

Let's hear from you...

- What do you teach and what grades?
- What have you been doing for your remote learning?
- What were some of your successes?
- What were some of your challenges?

Relationships

(What teaching is really all about)

- Show you care:
 - Contact students who are MIA.
 - Reach out to parents.
 - How do you deal with students who are disengaged?

We must be flexible and empathetic

- We don't know every student's home situation
 - Living situation, family stability
 - Support of family
 - Adequate space
 - Instrument
 - Device(s)
 - Internet access/speed

Being flexible with students
(accepting late work, etc.)

Empathy goes a long way!

Be willing to experiment

- Can aspects of face-to-face instruction be replicated? (Should they be?)
- Try new things
- Don't be afraid to think outside the box
- Experiment with new technology
- Survey students to find out about their likes/dislikes, preferences
- It is **VERY EASY** to get overwhelmed with all of the resources available!

Remember:

- What works for others may not work for you
- Some people may be more tech savvy than you, but that doesn't mean you can't do a great job teaching remotely
- You can't really do live ensemble playing virtually
- You do not need to create a "virtual orchestra" video!! (more on this later, time permitting)
- We have to understand that virtual teaching of orchestra is NOT going to be "the way it was"
- We must be patient and vigilant! TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS TIME!!

Communication

- Virtual meetings
 - Zoom
 - Microsoft Teams
 - Google Meet
 - **Important: Do not publicly share meeting join/login information. Check the security features of the software and use them!**
- Email
- Remind

Types of Virtual Assignments

- Playing Tests
- Practice “Vlogs”
- Listen and Reflect
- Play-alongs
- Music Theory
- Music Careers/Pathways
- Music History
- Exploration
- Essential Elements Interactive
- SmartMusic
- Sight-reading Factory
- Music First
- Other??

Playing Tests & Practice “Vlogs”

- Standard excerpt or technique exercise students submit
- Practice Vlog
 - Two parts:
 - Google Doc with directions and reflection items
 - Students upload a 5 minute practice sample video
 - Should be “vlog style” where student speaks to camera to explain what they are working on.

Listen & Reflect

- Create a listening playlist and allow students to choose a recording to listen to.
- Create prompts for students to answer.
- You can target a specific element of music (melody, timbre, etc.), have likes/dislikes, ask students to write a persuasive piece.

Possible Topics:

- Orchestral
- Instrument specific
- Conductors
- Musical style/genre
- Alternative Styles

Compare & Contrast

- Have students find two different performances of the same piece.
- Create prompts for students to answer.
- Can use Google Forms to collect data

Possible Topics:

- Student Orchestras
- Professional Orchestras
- Improvisations
- Arrangements of the same piece

Play-alongs

- Student record video of themselves playing along, or complete a record of their playing
- Students can play along:
 - with teacher
 - with other professionals
 - With tracks, recordings, etc.
- **Christian Howes'** play-along series (lots of ability levels and styles)
 - Example

More assignment ideas...

- Music Theory
 - Lessons
 - Drills
- Music History
 - Projects/Papers
- Music Careers/Pathways
 - Projects/Papers
- Exploration of music
 - “Soundtrack of my life” project (thanks, Shawn Morton)

Provide options and freedom when possible!

Creating how-to or tutorial videos

- Investing in equipment
 - What do you want to do?
 - What do you have? What do you need?
- Make exercises more fun
 - Types:
 - Score screen capture with Voice Over
 - Play-along (Warm-up, accompaniment tracks, music minus one)
 - Technique

Examples:

- Warm-up: D-Major with Rhythmic Variations
- Tutorial on a difficult section of music
- Rhythm help with score

Grading

- Every school district will have their policies
- Be fair and consistent
- Be understanding of technology hurdles and challenges

- How do YOU grade?

The Future

- How will COVID-19 and future events change music education as we know it?
 - What will our classes look like?
 - How will staffing/budgeting be impacted?
 - Lots of difficult questions...
- Plan for additional distance learning
- Figure out what works (and doesn't!) for you in your situation

Hardware I use...

- **Computer**

- Apple 13" MacBook Pro, 16GB RAM, 1 TB SSD

- **Accessories:**

- Samsung 1TB External SSD
- iPad Pro 12" (with Apple Pencil)
- iPad Pro 10"

- **Video cameras**

- Zoom Q8, internal Mac webcam

- **Audio/Microphones**

- Focusrite Scarlett 18i8
- Rode NT-1A, Rode NT-5

Highly recommend a good microphone.
USB mics are inexpensive and work well!

Software I use...

- Google Classroom
 - Manages all assignments, etc.
- Google Docs, Forms, Sheets, Slides, etc.
 - Easily sharable
- PDF Expert (pdf editing, annotating)
- ForScore (iPad)
- AnyTune Pro (for iPad)
- Logic Pro X (like Garageband)
- Final Cut Pro X (video editing)
- Amadeus Pro/Audacity
- Music Notation
 - Finale
 - Musescore
 - Noteflight

Resources

- [Google Classroom](#)
- [Google Meet](#)
- [zoom.us](#)
- [Microsoft Teams](#)
- YouTube - [Christian Howe's Play-along playlist](#)
- [Duck Soup](#) - create e-documents (great for theory, etc.)
- [MusicTheory.net](#) - tons of lessons and customizable drills
- [UpbeatMusicApp.com](#) - play virtual duets (almost) in real time.
- [Essential Elements Interactive](#) - web companion to the method book

Virtual Ensembles

- **NOT** a necessity!
- More of a **technical** project than a musical project
- Was a way for me to provide students with something to remember the end of the year
- Difficult to complete with pieces that contain lots of tempo changes, rubato, etc.
- Need LOTS of storage space and a powerful computer

Virtual Ensembles

- Must make an audio click track for students to record to
- Students must record video with headphones to submit
- Each video is resized and put onto a grid layer in the video
- Audio is synced with each of the videos

The Star Spangled Banner

Millennium

By Richard Meyer

Special thanks...



Questions?



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All materials/notes available at:
www.orchestrateacher.net

