

Recommended Software

Sibelius 4 - www.sibelius.com (\$225)
Sibelius Compass - www.sibelius.com (\$159)
Sibelius Groovy Music - www.sibelius.com (\$69)
Finale 2006 - www.makemusic.com (\$225)
PrintMusic (“lite” version of Finale) (\$60.00)
NotePad (basic use - similar to PrintMusic and Finale) FREE
www.finalenotepad.com

Resource materials & lesson plans

Book: Strategies for Teaching: Technology (MENC)
www.menc.org
Software: Sibelius Notes www.sibelius.com
Software: Sibelius Compass www.sibelius.com
Vermont MIDI website www.vtmidi.org
Technology Institute for Music Educators
(www.ti-me.org) Members section > Lesson plans

Start with the basics...

Do **not** just start composing...
Music Theory Background
 Use notation software to write assignments
 Use Sibelius Worksheets or create your own
 Use music notation software to compose scales, chords and
 other exercises

Editing and Modifying Existing Pieces

Drag or transpose given notes to new locations
 Transcribe a familiar melody by ear into standard notation
 (Strategies for Teaching – page 56)
Copy and paste patterns to create a melody
Add expressive elements to compositions
Arrange excerpts enhancing the expressive effect of the music
(Strategies for Teaching page 135)
Add chords – tonic and dominant to a given melody
Transpose tonality of an existing exercise (Sibelius Teaching Tools
page 102)

Arranging Compositions

Sibelius Teaching Tools:

Arrange a piano piece for 2 instruments (pg. 106)

Arrange an SATB score for 4 instruments

Compose a canon for 4 voices (Frere Jacques)

Transcribe an instrumental piece for SATB voices Strategies for Teaching – page 116.

Transcribe a duet or trio for three instruments – Strategies for Teaching – page 90

Adding melodies, chords and accompaniments to existing songs

Rounds (search for Rounds in Sib4 Worksheets)

Copy/paste melody - Frere Jacques

Add percussion parts

Add an original accompaniment

Question/answer (Tension/Release) Strategies for Teaching, page 46

Theme and Variations projects – Vermont MIDI

Adding melodies, chords and accompaniments to existing songs...

Create an accompaniment – fill in the blank measures

Sibelius Teaching Tools page 118.

Compose a blues melody using the blues scale over 12 bar blues in C

Sibelius Teaching Tools page 136

Composing melodies to existing chord changes

Sibelius Teaching Tools page 128.

Composing Original Compositions from Scratch

Select an existing song such as Lightly Row

Analyze it

Compose a song using the same chord progress and melodic movement.

Select another song, perhaps more difficult. Analyze it and then compose a song in this style.

Compose a duet basing the melody and harmony on a Korean Folksong style (Pentatonic Scale)

Strategies for Teaching – page 114

Composing a song in a specific form such as ABA, Rondo, 12-Bar Blues and so forth.

Sibelius Compass

Stand-alone application

Tutorials

Composition Projects

Does not use a notation approach

Can be used in conjunction with Sibelius

May take a while to become comfortable with the software interface

Sibelius Groovy Music

Designed for ages 5-11

Teaches musical concepts via non-standard notation

Record from a MIDI keyboard

Composing music using concepts taught in earlier modules

Teaching Strategies

Use one or a several computers in the music classroom

Take the class to the computer lab – use free software or purchase a site license

Teach in the Music Department MIDI lab

Encourage students to download free software or purchase software and compose at home.

Training and Support

Seek out training in the use of computers and technology

Technology Institute for Music Educators

(www.ti-me.org/ti-me/summer.html)

Join Music Education Technology Organizations:

TI:ME (www.ti-me.org) FREE 30-day trial

www.ti-me.org/trial.html

ATMI (www.music.org/atmi/default.htm)