



Expanding Experiences in Orchestra

DAWs, Amps, Pedals

....and more

Leo Park

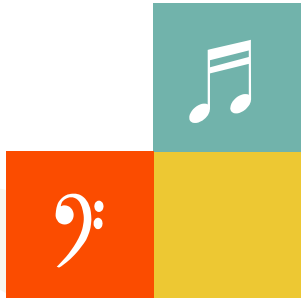
Maine South High School

Park Ridge, Illinois

The Midwest Clinic

Chicago, Illinois

December 20, 2023



Session Description

The traditional orchestra classroom is in serious need of modernization, in terms of the pedagogies employed, experiences offered, and technologies implemented. This session will explore lesson ideas and projects that expand the scope of musicianship experiences that center jamming, improvising, composing, producing, and recording via the use of DAWs, amps, FX pedals, and more.



Session Objectives

- ✓ To introduce a plethora of creative music-making ideas that can be infused into your pedagogy as an orchestra educator.
- ✓ To spotlight myriad approaches that could potentially expand and enhance the string playing experiences you and your students engage in.
- ✓ To highlight a paradigm shift in pedagogy/methods that prioritizes broadening the scope of classroom orchestra experiences to be more inclusive of a variety of practices and forms of music.





Session Objectives

- ✓ To emphasize the critical importance of nurturing well-rounded musicianship that includes the ability to play music in myriad capacities / settings (orchestra, modern band, jam session, recording session, around a fire, wedding reception, community center, concert hall, etc.).
- ✓ To explore various music technologies (DAWs, amps, pedals, etc.) that can be leveraged in the creative orchestra classroom.



Traditional Orchestra Experiences

- ✓ Method Books
- ✓ Scales and Arpeggios
- ✓ Large Ensemble Repertoire
- ✓ Solo and Chamber Repertoire
- ✓ Concert Cycles
- ✓ Competitions and Festivals
- ✓ Focus: Technique, Note Reading, Interpretation

Non-Traditional Orchestra Experiences

- ✓ Drone Improvisation
- ✓ Circle Stringing
- ✓ Looping / Layering
- ✓ Re-contextualization (Remix)
- ✓ Melodizing
- ✓ Soundscapes
- ✓ Songwriting
- ✓ Recording / Producing
- ✓ Focus: Creativity





Modalities



Acoustic

Expanding experiences with minimal technology.



Pedals

Expanding experiences in broadening sonic and creative palette by infusing use of effects pedals. .



Amplified

Expanding experiences by plugging into amps and using onboard amp effects.



DAWs

Expanding experiences via use of digital audio workstations. .





Drone Improvisation

- ✓ Drone improvisation is a meditative musical practice that provides space for organic, spontaneous, improvisation within loose parameters set by the musician or teacher.
- ✓ What is a drone and its purpose for this practice?
- ✓ Click [HERE](#) to watch an example (individual drone improvisation).
- ✓ Modify drone improvisation to chord improvisation.
- ✓ Can be implemented acoustically, plugged in, and with pedals, and DAWs.





Circle Stringing

- ✓ Circle stringing is derived from the centuries old communal music tradition of circle singing. It centers spontaneous instrumental layering of improvised motifs that continuously evolve into assorted polyphonic textures.
- ✓ Conversing musically. Radical departure from traditional practices. Robustly organic. Cultivates musical creativity and imagination (improvisation, composition, jamming).





Circle Stringing

- ✓ Students listen more perceptively and react more sensitively.
- ✓ Circle stringing can be implemented as an individual, small group, or large ensemble experience. Let's briefly walk through what circle stringing looks like.
- ✓ Click [HERE](#) to watch an example chord improvisation small group circle stringing.
- ✓ Click [HERE](#) to watch an example of large ensemble circle stringing.
- ✓ Can be implemented acoustically, plugged in, and with pedals, and DAWs.





Looping or Layering

- ✓ Looping or layering activities through group circle stringing and technology (application-based or hardware-based) can nurture musical creativity.
- ✓ What's the value in looping or layering activities?
- ✓ Focused repetition and reaction. Improvising musical ideas. Feedback loops. Process of trial/error and elimination.
- ✓ Click [HERE](#) to see circle stringing in action, and [HERE](#) to see looping/layering in action.
- ✓ Use DAWs, apps, and/or loop pedals to engage students in looping / layering.





Amps

- ✓ If you have instruments that can be plugged in, make use of amps (especially ones that carry onboard effects).
- ✓ In addition to amplifying the sound of instruments, amps have knobs that allow the user to adjust EQ, and various effects such as delay, reverb, distortion, chorus, flange, and echo. Such effects broadens the sonic palette students can explore and experiment with.





Fishman Loudboux Artist Amp



- ✓ Designed specifically for acoustic instruments.
- ✓ 2 inputs allowing for 2 students to plug in.
- ✓ EQ, anti-feedback, onboard effects for both inputs.



- ✓ Aux in and Bluetooth capability.
- ✓ My orchestra program has 6 of them.





Fishman Loudboux Artist Amp

- ✓ Used to plug in up to 2 Eastman instruments per amp.
- ✓ Aux in and Bluetooth capabilities used for small group experiences such as drone improvisation, melodizing over chord progressions, emulation activities, using iOS apps such as Drone Tone Tool or Smart Music during sectionals, etc.
- ✓ Learn about and explore EQ and effects such as reverb, delay, chorus, etc.





Fishman Loudboux Artist Amp





Eastman Series+ Instruments



- ✓ Upgrade any Eastman string instrument to include a uniquely designed pick-up system strategically engineered underneath spruce top.



- ✓ 3.5mm end button jack (violins/violas) and end pin insert jack (cello).
- ✓ Beautiful acoustic tone with plug-in capability.

My students use the Eastman Series+ instruments daily for all classroom experiences – orchestral and beyond.





Eastman Series+ Instruments



- ✓ A high quality versatile instrument that meets the needs of traditional/conventional practices and modern/creative 21st century practices.
- ✓ Easily maneuver from acoustic to electric/amplified.
- ✓ No need to purchase separate electric/amplifiable instruments or add-on pick ups that are attached to the outside of the instrument.
- ✓ With the appropriate tech tools, instruments can be used with DAWs, amps, and effects pedals, essentially providing the opportunity to expand scope of music-making experiences.





Eastman Series+ Instruments

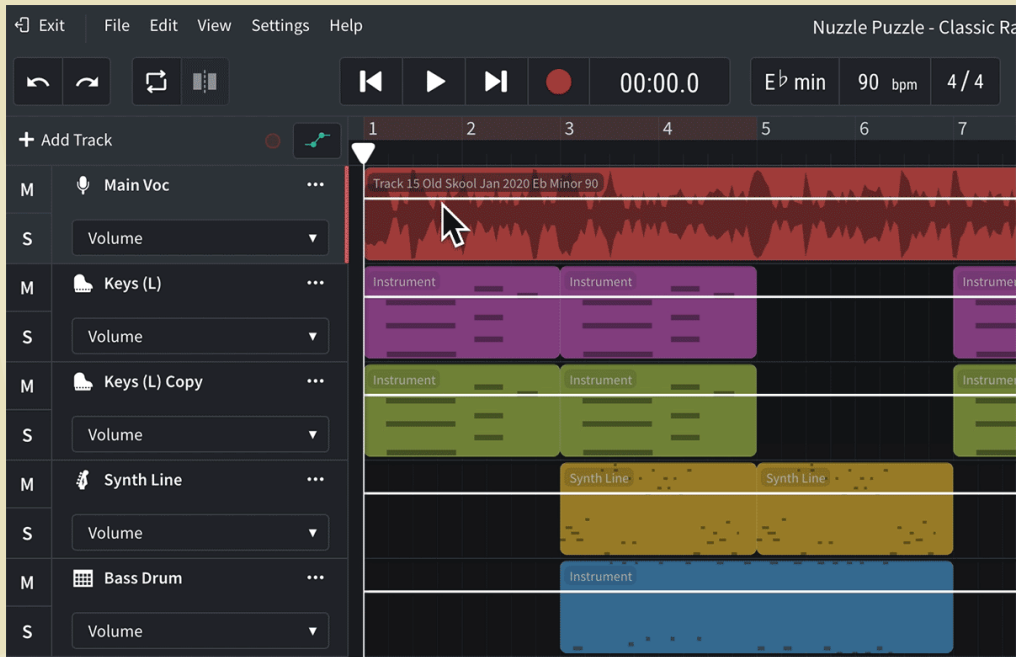




BandLab Edu



- ✓ Free SOPPA compliant web-based digital audio workstation.
- ✓ Create classes, templates, assignments.
- ✓ Easily push out and collect assignments.



Bandlab Edu was a centerpiece of remote learning last school year.

- ✓ Implement recording activities and projects using both audio and MIDI functionality.





BandLab Edu



- ✓ Record and edit solo, chamber, and/or orchestral repertoire. Click [HERE](#) for an example.
- ✓ Record and edit original works involving primary instruments and MIDI instruments. Click [HERE](#) for an example.
- ✓ Record and edit soundscapes based on prompts or still/moving images. Click [HERE](#) for an example.
- ✓ Record and edit an underscore to a scene from a film or television show. Click [HERE](#) for an example.
- ✓ Record and edit improvisation or looping/layering exercises. Click [HERE](#) for an example.
- ✓ Record and edit remixes of concert repertoire by sampling a melodic idea or ostinato from the piece





BandLab Edu



- ✓ Record and edit remixes of concert repertoire or any piece of music by sampling a melodic idea or ostinato from the piece, then generating original musical ideas to add to it. Click [HERE](#) for an example.
- ✓ Record and edit additional original musical ideas to an existing piece of music. Click [HERE](#) for an example.





VOX StompLab 1G



- ✓ Effects pedal with user-friendly interface.
- ✓ 100 presets banked in “genre” categories such as blues, rock, metal, jazz, etc.
- ✓ 20 customizable user presets.



- ✓ Battery powered or AC adapter.
- ✓ Expand the sonic palette students can explore and experiment with.
- ✓ Unique opportunities to explore different musical genres.

Use of effects pedals broadens the scope of musical experiences students engage in.





Fishman ToneDEQ



- ✓ High quality preamp, dual effects, EQ control, compressor, level booster, and DI for plugging straight into mixer.
- ✓ Use pedal effects in conjunction with amp onboard effects.



- ✓ Battery powered or AC adapter.
- ✓ Expand the sonic palette students can explore and experiment with.

The ToneDEQ offers easy access to controllability when performing in real-time





Boss Loopstation RC1



- ✓ Record and overdub capabilities.
- ✓ Up to 12 minutes of recording time.



- ✓ Battery powered or AC adapter.
- ✓ Expand the sonic palette students can explore and experiment with.

The ToneDEQ offers easy access to controllability when performing in real-time





Pedals



- ✓ Explore the sonic qualities of myriad pedal effects by way of drone improvisation and looping. Click [HERE](#) for examples.
- ✓ Program concert repertoire that spotlights various pedal effects. Click [HERE](#) for an example.
- ✓ Implement circle stringing activities that use pedal effects. Click [HERE](#) for an example.
- ✓ Engage students in improvisation exercises using loop and effects pedals. Click [HERE](#) for an example.



Key Takeaways

- ✓ Expand the types of music making experiences your students engage in. Infuse technology when appropriate to the objectives.
- ✓ Versatile musician versus solely an orchestral musician. Honor tradition, value experimentation, embrace the contemporary. Well rounded musicianship is the goal. Bach, Beatles, and beyond.
- ✓ All sorts of musical creativity should be at the fore of experiences students engage in
- ✓ Circle string. Improvise. Loop. Jam. Write. Compose.



Q & A

