



FEATURE

ARRANGING 101: ELEMENTS

Meets National Core Arts Anchor Standards 5, 7, 9 and 10

OBJECTIVES

- Develop and refine artistic work for presentation (*Pr5*)
- Perceive and analyze artistic work (*Re7*)
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work (*Re9*)
- Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art (*Co10*)

MATERIALS

- *Music Alive!* magazines (January 2019)
- Computer or mobile device with Internet access

START

Ask your students to read “Arranging 101: Elements” on pages 10-13 before reviewing the words below.

[This reinforces comprehension and vocabulary.]

ARTICULATION—clarity in the production of successive notes

INTEGRITY—internal consistency; the condition of being unified

ORCHESTRATION—the scoring of instrumental music for orchestral performance

TIME SIGNATURE—an indication of rhythm following a clef, generally expressed as a fraction with the denominator defining the beat as a division of a whole note and the numerator giving the number of beats in each bar

KEY SIGNATURE—any of several combinations of sharps or flats after the clef at the beginning of each stave indicating the key of a composition

ECCENTRIC—unconventional and slightly strange

COMPOSITION—the action or art of writing a work of music

ETHNOMUSICOLOGY—the study of the music of different cultures

INTANDEM—alongside each other; together

DEVELOP

- ▶ **Play** the melody in Figure A
(*Hear the Music track 7 at musicalive.com*)

What song is this? How do you know?

Which parts of arrangement are incorporated in this piece?

- ▶ **2. Play** Arrangement #1 from Figure B
(*Hear the Music track 8 at musicalive.com*)

What is different about this arrangement from what you heard in Figure A? How do you know it's the same song?

What other elements could be added to improve the way this song sounds? Would you add other instruments? Change the timing?

- 3. Play** Arrangement #2 from Figure C (*Hear the Music track 9 at musicalive.com*)

What is different about this arrangement from the first one in Figure B?

Which elements of arrangements are incorporated in this piece? How do you know?

DISCUSS

What does arranging mean?

Why is arranging important to the way a song sounds?

What does orchestration mean?

Which elements are essential to the song's “integrity,” or allow you to know it's the same song, in this case, “Happy Birthday”?

Which elements can be changed so that you can still recognize it as “Happy Birthday”?

Which arrangement (#1 or #2) is the better version in your opinion? Why?

If you were to make your own arrangement, what song would you choose and how would you start?

ASSESS

Did the students read the article?

Did they participate in the discussion about different arrangements and the elements of arranging?