



Using ICT to help prepare for realisation element of the Integrated Task

If a pupil intends to compose for a live ensemble, and use the directing of that ensemble as the realisation element of the integrated task, then producing scores and parts that accurately reflect the composer's intentions will be vital. Handwriting scores is a time consuming task when time is at a premium, and although most computer sequencers can produce scores, they tend to be difficult and time consuming to produce, often with somewhat disappointing results. Using Finale or PrintMusic, a pupil can both compose and realise on screen, and then easily print out accurate and professional looking scores and parts for performers to follow

It should be noted that in order to fulfil the requirements of the realisation element of the integrated task, a realisation using only music technology is acceptable. Finale and PrintMusic allows a sophisticated computer realisation with easy production of accompanying scores to send to the exam board. It is also possible for a pupil to fulfil the realisation element by playing one element of the composition themselves (e.g. a melody line on the flute) to a computer backing they have created using Finale or PrintMusic.

Teaching Activities:

- Provide pupils with a suitable composing task for instruments available in the class group. Discuss with pupils the implications of the task and the requirements of the instruments they are composing for. Give pupils some time to prepare their ideas.
- Working individually, pupils create an on-screen score for the prescribed ensemble using Finale or PrintMusic and refine their initial ideas into a coherent composition. Notes can be entered manually, via a MIDI keyboard, or recorded from an acoustic single note instrument using the software's MicNotator feature.
- ICT can allow experimentation with performance directions to take place before the pupil is faced with the live musicians, giving them a clearer idea of what they want out of their performers. For example, Finale can interpret and play back repeats, dynamics, tempo changes and chord symbols, allowing the pupil to make several changes before presenting the music to the live ensemble. Finale and PrintMusic also play back using the specified instrument sounds.
- Once the pupil is happy with the composition and the performance directions, they should use the automatic part extraction and transposition features of Finale and PrintMusic to print out scores and parts for distribution to the musicians.
- Pupils can then rehearse and direct their ensemble, using the version of the composition recorded on Finale or PrintMusic as an example for the other musicians to follow.