

# Arrange YOURSELF!

## Arranging Made Easy

### General arranging ideas:

#### Find a tune or a melody that you really like.

The first step in arranging is finding a song, melody, or tune you REALLY like! Make sure the tune is in the public domain, meaning that there is no copyright on the music and it is legal for you to use. You can visit the website [copyright.gov](http://copyright.gov) for more information and your teacher can help you navigate through.

#### Decide what instrumentation will be in your arrangement.

The instrumentation can range from one instrument playing the melody along with an accompaniment to as many instruments or voices as you would like. Try using the compose feature in [SmartMusic](#) to get started and hear what you create!

#### See what chords support the melody.

The easiest way to do this is to write down what chords sound good in each measure of the melody. Many times, the melody will be a root, third, or fifth of a chord. Here are some common chord progressions to consider:

I – IV – V – I

I – V – I

I – V – vi – IV – V – I

#### Harmonize the melody.

After you decide which chords to use, harmonize the melody in block (often half notes) style chords. Once you are comfortable with the block chords, experiment with different rhythms.

#### Experiment with the melody and harmonies using different voices (instruments).

Move the entire melody or parts of the melody to different instruments. This will create different colors and textures of the melody. Write the harmonies in the remaining instruments.

### Directions:

- Arrange the melody on the next page for string orchestra.
- The first example from the next page gives you a melody and block chords. The second example is an arrangement of the melody and chords.
- Create your own arrangement of the melody! Be creative, there are **no rules!**

Example 1

# Sourwood Mountain

American Folksong

Melody

Chords

D G D G D A D

Mel.

Chds

D G D G D A D

Example 2

# Sourwood Mountain

American Folksong  
*Arranged by Jim Palmer ASCAP*

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

String Bass

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

S.B.

Create YOUR Arrangement of Sourwood Mountain:

# Sourwood Mountain

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

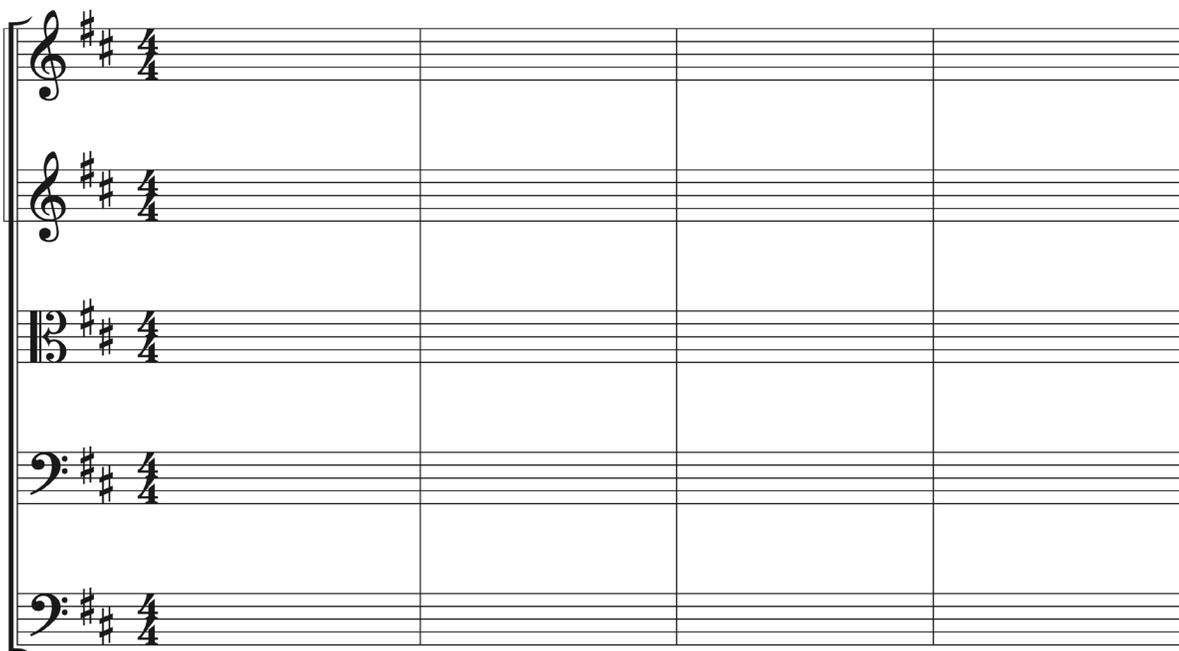
Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

String Bass



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Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

S.B.

