

Music Arranging for the Educator

Mark Grizzard, presenter

*"The world doesn't need any more conductors, soloists, or composers.
It needs music teachers, accompanists, and arrangers."*

I. Basic Goals of your Arrangement

A. Emulation = Imitating a recording within a texture (college acappella)

↕ determine your spot on the spectrum

B. Canvas = using a melody as a framework for an idea or sound (jazz)

C. Determining Essentials (performers, logistics, requests, limitations)

II. Make a Lead Sheet

A. Include everything you want to keep (guitar licks, chords, lyrics)

B. Determine Form and Skeleton Structure

III. General Advice

A. Know your ensemble and showcase it. If you don't, make it easy.

B. Use consistent harmonic language; count up your chord tones.

C. Implement wild creativity and then smooth it out. (voice leading!)

D. Don't go measure by measure.

E. Sing / play each part.

F. Ask yourself, "What makes this worth listening to?"

G. Don't try too hard.

H. Pay attention to detail.

IV. Bag O' Tricks

A. Reharmonization

B. Set Up a Groove

C. Write a Countermelody

D. Layering

E. ?.....

V. Arranging In Your Career

A. Practice it just like everything; don't leave a piece unfinished.

B. Learn music notation software.

C. Charge people; set a rate or log your hours; say no.

Thank You!