



## Simple Music Arranging Tricks

“Worship Tools” By Chris R. Hansen

# Energizing Your Church Music - Arranging and orchestration using the particular gifts of your congregation.

### A. 101 - The Basics - Tools and Tricks for the creative quick fix

Using the Hymnal as is:

#### C Instruments

**Flute** - Have flute play the soprano or alto lines up one octave

**Trombone** or **Bassoon** - Play as written either the tenor line or bass line

**Tuba** - Play the bass line down an octave

#### E♭ Instruments

##### **Alto Sax** or **Bari Sax**

Have the alto sax play the tenor line

Have the bari sax play the bass line

(...But think of the bass clef as treble clef and add 3 sharps)

(or transpose up a major 6th for the correct key signature)

#### B♭ Instruments

(Many hymns can be found in different keys in different hymnals...

Have your B♭ instruments play hymn version one step higher than the key being sung)

**Trumpet** - Should play soprano or alto lines as is.

**Clarinet** - Have Clarinet play alto line up one octave

#### String Instruments

All strings can play the hymn as is. (Even the viola. Which is often written in alto clef.)

Have the violins play the soprano and alto parts up one octave and the viola play the soprano part where it is. The cello part can play the tenor or bass part and the arco bass can play the bass part.

Don't have the instruments play at the same time. Have different instruments play on different stanzas. Also experiment with having Instruments play different parts. Example: Have the flute play the soprano line on the first stanza and the alto line on the second stanza. Reverse this for the clarinet.





**B. Basic Resources** - You will find that most traditional hymns are written the same regardless of the hymn book they are in. However the keys may change. Older hymn books tend to have higher keys. (These are the hymn books to use to for Bb instruments.) Thus the following instrumentations often work with other hymnals, if the key is the same.

**“The Word Hymnal”** Instrumental parts (Hint: Purchase the “obligato” part which has both parts for C and Bb instruments. This is great for one or two instruments who play a counter melody with the hymn. They also have a “Rhythm Book” with chord symbols for guitar and bass players.)

**“Great Hymns of The Faith”** by Singspiration

**“Hymn Orchestration”** by A.Lillenas

**C. Writing a simple instrumental obligato line with little musical experience.** This will work well for choruses. Keep in mind the range and keys of the instrument.

1. Keep it simple
2. Stay away from doubling melody
3. Move up or down by step or arpeggiate chords
4. Mimic piano or accompaniment lines
5. Mimic rhythms
6. Use more movement in breaks of the melody

**D. Adding a second instrument**

1. Move with first part
2. Use the magic of 3rds and 6ths
3. Use octave doubling

**E. Internet Resources**

[praisecharts.com](http://praisecharts.com)

[hansencharts.com](http://hansencharts.com)

[musicforchurches.com](http://musicforchurches.com)

