

All-State: SmartMusic Basics for String Teachers

presented by Michael Ferry

reported by Kathryn Buccola and Brenda Radloff

Michael Ferry, an Education Manager for MakeMusic, demonstrated SmartMusic at the 2015 All-State Orchestra Workshop. SmartMusic is a computer and iPad program that listens and records a student playing and assesses their accuracy. It can be used as a practice tool that gives the player instant feedback with a green note head if the note was played accurately or a red note head if it was played incorrectly.

Michael explained SmartMusic's *Deliberate Practice Methodology*:

1) there is a specific goal

- 2) expert instruction
- 3) focused practice
- 4) immediate feedback.

It is like the Netflix of music education, says Michael. SmartMusic has a huge and growing library—currently 4,500 titles of band and orchestra music. There are also 73 method books (18 of those are string books). The nice thing is that you can request a piece if it is not already in their library.

A new feature allows teachers to create grading rubrics and allows for personalized

feedback directly to the student.

SmartMusic is wonderful for conferences. Since students record themselves playing, teachers can pull up the students file, and show an example of the student playing. It automatically scores the playing. You see on the computer screen what mistakes were made.

Kathryn Buccola teaches at Woodbury Elementary School. Brenda Radloff teaches in Austin. ‡