

Idea: 20.7.20

1. Although it has already been hinted at, let it be said forthright that the following is a great idea with lots of uses. Here it is:
 - To create a (never ending) series of backing tracks for given compositions and arrangements with a select few musicians – so that a number of possible mixes can be presented online, each with an instrument missing so that the student/listener can fill in the missing part on their instrument. So, if it is at the DGK level, then there would be 17 different mixes presented on a BANDSKOOL page. Further mixes could be added for supplementary use including each section playing on its own; and again but with one instrument missing. That brings the total number of mixes for a given track to possibly $17 + 4 + 5 + 4 + 4 + 5 = 39$ mixes. Actually, I should have mentioned the mix that has everything presented; so that is 40 mixes. After that, further mixes could demonstrate improvisational or soloing ideas. So, for just one tune, there could be a lot of mixes that can be listened to. I say listen because I don't think this requires video; but there again, perhaps video could also play a role in this – perhaps to draw students to the page in the first place and to take up the lesson...however that is presented. I certainly don't think it is necessary to have video for all the mixes mentioned above; but there could be supporting videos where individual player teachers talk about things from their end.

So, there is a lot a mileage to be had from one tune and one arrangement.

Even better where a given track is one that is in the DGG/DGK repertoire so that players can also use them at home for practise purposes. On the other hand, for copyright reasons and given the fact that the purpose of this endeavour is to make money from them both directly and indirectly...then perhaps that will rule out some tunes or their arrangements. 2 birds with one stone is certainly a nice thought!

So...how would the business end work?

Well, the first question perhaps is: whose tune is it; and whose arrangement?

Next...in regard to players, given that they have all contributed equally then the shares should be equal in terms of listening to the tracks. I imagine the video of us all playing it (if that happens) would be a free loss leader but would serve to direct the student to the backing tracks page.

I think it best that students have to stream the tracks from the site and pay something to give them that entitlement. Perhaps discounts could be offered or incentives to purchase more. However, that itself doesn't address the issue of copyright protection. Even if the listener cannot download a file of the track..they can still easily lift it to some medium or other. For example, WASAPI allows you to record what is being played through your computer. So...how to prevent that? Hmm...

That aside, there could be accompanying materials provided of an educational nature in connection with a given tune or tunes. These could be collaborative works or they could be down to individual player/teachers to make their own hay. Teachers could also use these tracks and materials for their one to one lessons online or otherwise...

Incidentally, these tracks could also be used for BANDSKOOL OFFLINE TERMS starting in 2021.

Let me know what you think about all of this. Clearly it would be pointless to just do one track – we should look at many tunes and arrangements, copyrights withstanding. A whole series of tunes.

The lock down period has proved that there is more than one way to record such tracks; although the best quality should be striven for. So, it's not as if we all have to take time out together to record these tracks in one room.