**MUSICAL METADATA**

CREATING A DYNAMIC SHEET MUSIC & INSTRUMENT CATALOG FOR SEATTLE JAZZED

**THE INFORMATION PROBLEM**

“The instruments keep piling up and we keep falling further and further behind.”

Britt Madsen, Communications & Development Director, Seattle JazzED

JazzED has a small staff and a big, unruly collection of sheet music and instruments used by instructors and students. They knew they couldn’t rely on keeping track of these items in ad-hoc spreadsheets - or, more often, in their heads - but they didn’t know what to do about it. Their system was a strategic and logistical liability: at any moment, they couldn’t be certain what sheet music was in their collection or which student had borrowed which instrument.

**OUR BRILLIANT PROCESS**

**DEFINE THE PROBLEM.** We developed an effective dialogue with JazzED to get a strong sense of their needs. At the top of their list: simplicity, accuracy and mobility.

**RESEARCH OUR OPTIONS.** After several rounds of internal testing, we chose Airtable, an out-of-the-box, cloud-based, database platform that addressed their needs and wants.

**DEVELOP THE PLATFORM.** We cataloged their sheet music and instrument collections with a customized element set, which allowed JazzED to find what they need quickly.

**MAKE IT AWESOME.** On top of that, we created a physical organizational system with call numbers and barcodes to relate the real-world resources back to the database.

**THE INCREDIBLE SOLUTION**

JazzED can now do things that they never dreamed of:

- Search and filter sheet music based on style, instrumentation and skill level.
- Quickly find instruments and immediately know their condition and location.
- Check out an instrument to a student and know who borrowed what, and when.
- Easily share and access everything on tablets, cell phones and other mobile devices.

They now have confidence in a strong, accurate system. Best of all, JazzED has more time to focus on what they do best: provide world-class musical education to students all over the Seattle area.

“It’s like a miracle.”

Laurie De Koch, Executive Director, Seattle JazzED

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In addition to instruments, we cataloged and organized JazzED’s sheet music collection.

Greta Pittenger, MLIS: gretapittenger.com
Jacob Shepard, MLIS: jjshepard.com
Michael Wallenfels, MLIS: michaelwallenfels.com

Information School
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

JAZZED