

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.



JazzED owns about 50 instruments and had no system to track the movement of their inventory.

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.



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

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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SEATTLE JAZZED