



**UNIVERSITY**  
**IB MUSIC**  
**ARRANGEMENT**

**Step 1. Select an appropriate song.**

*Example: "Don't Stop Believin'" by Journey*

**Step 2. Transcribe the melody of your song into Sibelius. Have a clearly delineated Theme A and Theme B.**

*Example: The "just a small town girl | livin' in a lonely world" and "don't stop believin' | hold on to that feeling..." melodies make the two themes.*

A:



B:



**Step 3. Determine what chords accompany your melody. Transcribe the bass line, if applicable.**

*Example: the melody here (Theme B) appears in the treble clef; the chords (block style) appear below it, and the bass line is transcribed all the way at the bottom.*



**Step 4. Select an appropriate medium for the arrangement of your song.**

*Example: string quartet*

**Step 5. Create a theme map for your arrangement.**

*Example:*

Introduction – Theme A (cello) – Theme B (1<sup>st</sup> violin) – Theme A (1<sup>st</sup> violin and 2<sup>nd</sup> violin) – Closing

**Step 6. Copy the melody, bass line, and chords into the appropriate instruments, according to your theme map.**

*Example: The melody has been copied into the first violin part. The bass line has been copied into the cello part. The second violin and viola have been given the notes of the chord which remain when the bass note is taken out.*

The image shows a musical score for Theme B, starting at measure 6. The score is written for four staves: Violin I (top), Violin II/Viola (second), Cello/Bass (third), and Bass (bottom). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. A box labeled 'B' is placed above the first staff at the beginning of measure 6. The Violin I part contains the melody, starting with a quarter note G5, followed by quarter notes A5, B5, and C6, then a quarter rest, and finally quarter notes B5, A5, G5, and F5. The Violin II/Viola part contains a whole chord in each measure, consisting of notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The Cello/Bass part contains a whole chord in each measure, consisting of notes G2, A2, B2, and C3. The Bass part contains a bass line starting with a quarter note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, then a quarter rest, and finally quarter notes B2, A2, G2, and F2.

**Step 7. Alter the chord patterns as desired.**

*Example: The rhythm of the chord accompaniment has been changed to keep things interesting.*

A musical score for a four-staff instrument, likely a guitar, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 4/4 time. The score begins at measure 6, marked with a '6' and a boxed 'B'. The top staff contains a melody with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, and D5. The second staff features a new chord accompaniment rhythm consisting of eighth notes. The third staff continues with eighth notes, and the bottom staff features a bass line with eighth notes. The piece concludes in measure 9.

**Step 8. Add dynamics and phrase markings.**

*Example. Make it look like music you've seen!*

The same musical score as in Step 7, but with added dynamics and phrase markings. The top staff has a dynamic marking of 'f' (forte) and a slur over the first two measures. The second staff has a dynamic marking of 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The third staff also has a dynamic marking of 'mp'. The bottom staff has a dynamic marking of 'f'. The piece concludes in measure 9.