

# Music Notation Programs: The New Generation

By JOHN KUZMICH, JR.



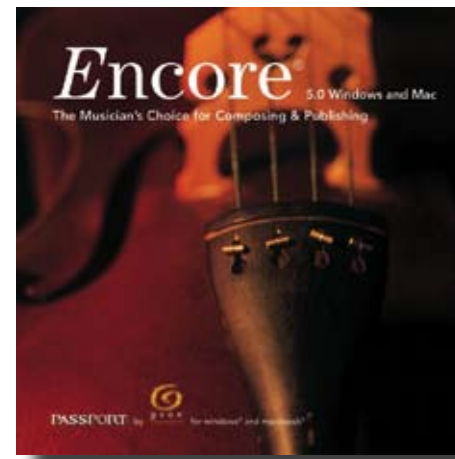
Dr. Kuzmich is a nationally-known music educator with more than 30 years of teaching experience. He has certification from TI:ME (Technology Institute for Music Educators) to serve as a training instructor throughout the country. His academic background also includes a Ph.D. in comprehensive musicianship.

As a freelance author, he has more than 250 articles and five textbooks published. As a clinician, Dr. Kuzmich frequently participates in workshops throughout the U.S. and several foreign countries. For more information, visit his Web site: [www.kuzmich.com](http://www.kuzmich.com).

Music notation software is perhaps the most ubiquitous creative tool used by music educators. Unfortunately, outdated versions probably grace many most school computers, while today's products are vastly superior and more powerful. Here are ten reasons why now is the perfect time to upgrade or purchase the latest version of a notation program:

1. Today's products are more user-friendly with fewer keystrokes to learn, simpler interface and have great tutorials.
2. They have more power and features.
3. Prices are very competitive, especially for educators.
4. There are more quality products to select from than ever before.
5. Playback options are vastly improved with virtual instrument technology.
6. There are significant editing capabilities with multimedia options.
7. Sharing musical compositions via MusicXML is revolutionary.
8. Printing technology has never been more affordable.
9. Music scanning is fast and economical.
10. Posting musical scores on the Internet has never been easier.

Is it important that each notation product featured in this article contain every feature? No! Everyone has his or her own preferences and needs, and many teachers may not require all the whistles and bells available. In some cases, simplicity and user-friendliness may be more appropriate than complex no-



tation capabilities. This article focuses on several excellent products designed for all levels of music education.

## Music Notation Products

Datasonics' *Mastering Music*, ([www.datasonics.com.au](http://www.datasonics.com.au)) is a unique product combining both a professional notation product and a MIDI/digital audio sequencing program in one easy-to-use interface. Best of all, it works with seven different editors to customize even the most difficult score. These include notation, global track, keyboard, event, mixer, drum, piano, and tempo editors, giving users detailed composing/arranging/editing capabilities. Not only does it have film scoring capabilities, but also music theory and aura training components. What clearly sets this product apart is that this student-friendly, curriculum-based product is classroom-ready "out of the box" with more than 400 tutorials and 75 videos.

Musitek's *SmartScore X* ([www.smartscore.com](http://www.smartscore.com)) is a slick upgrade from previous versions. Although primarily designed as a music scanning product, it has rather sophisticated music notation editing along with a powerful sequencer to playback scores, making it an attractive music notation product with unbeatable music scanning capabilities. Its playback system supports both VST (Windows) and AU (Mac) digital plug-ins, including the Garrigan and Motu libraries. Available are five different versions ranging

from guitar (1 music staff), piano (2 staves), MIDI (4 staves), songbook editing (3 staves) and pro edition with 36 staves per system. The price is a bargain considering its extensive music notation features along with a primo professional music-scanning product with nearly 100 percent accuracy on well-printed scores included, not to mention its MusicXML capabilities to *Finale*, *Sibelius* and others.

*Notation Composer* by Notation Composer ([www.notation.com](http://www.notation.com)) is a delightful notation program with numerous innovations. It is quick and easy to set up the staves, meter, and key signature for a new song. Its notation editing tools are uniformly presented in the user interface. Most are also accessible via palette buttons, menus, and keyboard shortcuts. It offers a great combination of integrated tools for editing notation and sound. Some of these include accent marks, dynamic marks, grace notes, trills, tremolos, phrase marks and MIDI. It can also export to MusicXML. With many new features forthcoming later this year, *Notation Composer* is a solid product for most music educators.

*ScoreWriter* ([www.geniesoft.com](http://www.geniesoft.com)) is a good entry-level notation product,

similar to MakeMusic's *Print Music 2008*. It allows users to utilize up to two VST instruments, such as *BandStand* by Native-Instruments, for realistic playback. Notes can quickly be entered on-screen with a mouse or a computer keyboard and recorded for a MIDI performance. Scores can sound studio recorded through VST technology, and this is the least expensive notation product on the market offering VST capabilities.

*Overture* is a more advanced version of *ScoreWriter* by GenieSoft. Users can quickly enter notes on-screen with an intuitive interface and powerful editing tools and symbol palettes. It offers a wide variety of jazz articulations including lift, rip, wah-wah, fall off, wow-wow and shake with seven selection line types. Playback capabilities are significant and can load up to 256 VST instruments and 4 effects, resulting in studio-quality playback. There's an excellent web site comparing the features of *ScoreWriter 4* and *Overture* at [www.geniesoft.com/products/comparison.htm](http://www.geniesoft.com/products/comparison.htm).

*Encore* by Gvox ([www.gvox.com](http://www.gvox.com)) has just made its most significant update in ten years, offering many new features that make this product



user-friendly for simple lead sheets or symphonies in less time and with more control than ever before. I like its powerful editing capabilities along with how it graphically displays and plays back dynamic marks, repeats, multiple endings and pedal marks, with any MIDI controller. It is *Garritan Personal Studio*-ready for more

authentic playback options. Users can choose between engraver spacing and mathematically aligned notes depending on his or her own layout preferences. Encore now offers Music XML import and export, and has Soundfont support with handwritten music style options. This is a versatile notation product for creating motion picture

scores, orchestral arrangements, and choir songbooks, as well as teaching music.

*Notion* and *Protégé* by Notion Music ([www.notionmusic.com](http://www.notionmusic.com)) are the ultimate music notation applications for the most realistic playback performance directly from a score with 1,000-voice polyphony and an audio

mixer with variable decay. The only difference between *Notion* and *Protégé* is that *Protégé* can write for only eight staves and save files as *Protégé* or .WAV file formats. All other features are identical to *Notion*. Articulations, 33-level dynamic resolution, performance techniques, tempo, and other score elements are rendered by

a proprietary playback engine that uses samplings from the London Symphony Orchestra, featuring 33 instruments bundled with the software. Instruments can be added from an ever-expanding sound library. These programs feature complete real-time tempo and performance control utilizing their NTempo, including fermatas

and breath marks. This ultra-control is great for customizing play-along accompaniments. It offers extensive editing, as well as MusicXML importing/exporting.

*Play Music* ([www.notationware.com](http://www.notationware.com)) is a great entry-level music notation product built especially for music educators who are not into music

To help make the selection process easier, the accompanying tables provide product-by-product comparisons.

Product-by-Product Comparison Table 2 of 8 Productivity Features											
Product	Manufacturer	List Price	Academic Price	Foreign Language Supported	Frequency of Updates	Charge of Updates	Computer Platforms	Operating Systems	Minimum Operating Requirements	Product Update Credit	
Mastering Music	Datasonics	\$99.00 + \$5 student licensing	Same	Spanish, Portuguese, German, Dutch, Italian	Once a year	\$1.00 per student on annual support agreement	Locally, on a network and Internet	Windows 2000, XP and Vista	500 MHz+ CPU, 128 MB RAM, 1024 monitor display, IE 5.5+	Buy support Agreement	
SmartScore X	Musitek	\$399, see foot note 1	\$299	German, Japanese, French (soon)	Every 2 years	Free	Windows/Mac	Win XP, Vista/Mac OS 10.4 and 10.5	None		
Encore	Gvox	\$399	\$299	French, Spanish, Dutch, German, and Portuguese (ready by end of 2008)	As needed	Free	Windows/Mac	Win XP, Vista/Mac OS X	Mac G3 CPU or better, 32MB of RAM, 16MB Hard Disk space Mac OS 10.3 or higher	Discounted to \$129.99 for upgrades	
Notation Composer	Notation Software	\$149.95	\$149.95 with site license discounts	None	Major release once a year. Others as needed.	\$49.95 for major update, others free.	Windows	Windows Vista, XP, 98	1 GHz CPU, 512 MB RAM, 20 MB disk space	66.6 % discount for major update	
Play Music	Notationware	\$49.99, \$35 for students	\$35.00	None	Yearly	Free	PC, Mac in development	Win 200, XP, Vista	16 MB RAM (32 MB recommended), SoundBlaster compatible soundcard	None	
NOTION/PROTEGE (same features except where noted)	Notion Music	\$499/\$69.95	\$299/No academic pricing for Protege	None	Three times a year	Free	Win, Mac	Win (All), Mac OS X (Tiger, Leopard)	512 MB, 3 GHZ CPU	None	
ScoreWriter	GenieSoft	\$59.00	None from Geniesoft but \$49 from selected dealers	None	Small upgrades regularly, Major upgrades sporadically	Varies, small updates free	Win, Mac	Win 95 through Vista, Mac OS X 10.4 and above	Win Pentium 100 MHz, 256 MB Application RAM, MIDI interface, CD ROM, Mac 68020 or Power Mac, 256 MB application RAM, MIDI interface, CD-ROM	None	
Overture	GenieSoft	\$349 (boxed), \$300 (download)	None, but \$210 from selected dealers	None	Small upgrades regularly, Major upgrades sporadically	Varies, small updates free	Win, Mac	Win 95 through Vista, Mac OS X 10.4 and above	Win Pentium 100 MHz, 256 MB Application RAM, MIDI interface, CD ROM, Mac 68020 or Power Mac, 256 MB application RAM, MIDI interface, CD-ROM	None	
Music Pad Pro Plus	FreeHand Systems	\$899	Yes	German, Japanese, Chinese	6 to 12 months	Some are free, others approx. \$50	Win, Mac	Win 98E thru Vista, Mac OS X 10.3.2 or later	Win – Pentium II or higher CPU running Win 98 SE, Win ME, Win 2000 or Win XP (includes SP2) – Mac OS X v.10.2.6 (or later minimum), or Mac OS X v. 10.3.2 (or later recommended) 50 MB available hard disk space, XGA display with settings at 1024x768 pixels, 16-bit color	Negotiable	

Product-by-Product Comparison Table 2 of 8 Productivity Features									
Products	Manufacturer	VST Support	Auto Arrange for Creating Compositions	Curriculum Test Worksheets Included	# of Sample Songs Included	Use Third-Party Plug-ins	# of Third-Party Plug-ins	Transposing	
Mastering Music	Datasonics	No	No	Yes, 400+ lessons integrated with application	9	Yes, Any Virtual Instrument sound source with MIDI In driver, any movies for sync to video in any format		Yes	
SmartScore X	Musitek	Yes	No	No	5	Garritan VST		Yes	
Encore	Gvox	No, but will work with any VST host	No	No	100+	No	Yes, Any Virtual Instrument sound source with MIDI In driver	Yes	
Notation Composer	Notation Software	No (currently under development)	No	No	5	No		Yes	
Play Music	Notationware	Target for Quart, 2009	No	Planned for Quarter, 2009	30	Yes, VST t targeted for Quarter 1 2009		Yes	
NOTION/PROTEGE (same features except where noted)	Notion Music	No	No	No	12/7	No		All	
ScoreWriter	GenieSoft	PC only, up to 2 instruments	No	No	4	VST Instruments & effects		Yes	
Overture	GenieSoft	Up to 256 VST instruments plus 4 effects	No	No	4	VST Instruments & effects		Yes	
Music Pad Pro Plus	FreeHand Systems	N/A	No	No	13 sheet music files, 12 MP3/MIDI samples	N/A		Yes, for Solero files	

**Product-by-Product Comparison  
Table 3 of 8  
Notation Layout Features**

Products	Manufacturer	Extract Parts/Score	Parts Dynamically Linked to Score	Stave/Voices/MIDI Channels		# of Templates with Product	Notation Scroll View	Notation Page View	Notation Scaling	Family Ordering	Staff Brackets and Braces
Mastering Music	Datasonics	Yes	Yes	Unlimited		Yes, User Definable	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
SmartScore X	Musitek	Yes	Yes	Yes		20	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not Known	Automatic Editable
Encore	Gvox	Yes, including all parts with one keystroke	No	64/8/32 Additional MIDI devices can be used to increase MIDI channels		36, Unlimited user defined	Yes	Yes	Yes, not automatic	Templates are in Family order	Templates are bracketed and braced in family order
Notation Composer	Notation Software	Yes	Yes	Unlimited/ 2 / virtual 16+		33	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Play Music	Notationware	Yes	Yes	24/8/8		30	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
NOTION/PROTEGE (same feataures except where noted)	Notion Music	Yes	No	64/128/2 voices per staff		15 plus unlimited number of user created	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
ScoreWriter	GenieSoft	Yes	No	16/4/		25	No	Yes	Yes	Manual	Yes
Overture	GenieSoft	Yes	No	256/8		25	No	Yes	Yes	Manual	Yes
Music Pad Pro Plus	FreeHand Systems	No	N/A	Yes, for Solero files		No limit, accepts all formats (graphic)	No	Yes	Yes, Manual	Yes, Manual	Yes, Manual

Extract Parts / Score – Display and Print an individual track from a conductor score  
 Parts Dynamically Linked to Score – One Part when updated appears updated also in the conductor score  
 Stave/Voices/MIDI Channels – Number of parts in a conductor score  
 # of Templates with Product – Number of different templates for conductor scores  
 Notation Scroll View – One linear row for each part that scrolls continuously from beginning to end

Notation Page View – Notation displayed in pages ready for printing  
 Notation Scaling – Scaling notation vertically and horizontally to fit more or less bars on a line and lines on a page  
 Family Ordering – Instruments grouped into families and the order of these families within a conductor score  
 Staff Brackets and Braces – Brackets and Braces for staves in conductor scores based on family groupings

**Product-by-Product Comparison  
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Notation Editing Features**

Products	Manufacturer	# of Toolbar Buttons and Palettes	Chord Export/auto Fret	Rhythmic Duration Ranges	Percussion Single Line Score	Tablature User-Definable Standard/ Converts To & From	Text Lyrics/Headers & Footers/ Annotation	Number of Musical Fonts	Supports Alternative Font Heads	Cross Staff & Measure Beaming	Non-standard key signatures	Complex Meters/ Non-Metric Music
Mastering Music	Datasonics	22	None	All note durations supported	Single line, drum staff	No/No	Yes	1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes/Yes
SmartScore X	Musitek	26 Toolbar buttons/28 Palette buttons	Yes	128th note to double whole	Yes	Yes/Yes	Yes	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	No/Yes
Encore	Gvox	1-90 buttons available/11 Palettes	No/Yes	128th note to double whole	Yes	Yes/MIDI	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Notation Composer	Notation Software	N/A	Yes/No	128th note to double whole	Yes	No/No	Yes	1	Yes	No	No	Yes, e.g. 3+2+3/8
Play Music	Notationware	N/A	Yes/Yes/Yew	128th note to double whole	No	Yes/Yes	MIDI, ASCII, Notation	Ability to insert meta files in note head	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
NOTION/PROTEGE (same features except where noted)	Notion Music	3	No	128th note to double whole note	Yes	No/No	Yes	1	Yes	No	Yes, microtones support (microtones in the key signature)	Yes (also hides time signatures)
ScoreWriter	GenieSoft	23	Yes	128th note to double whole note	Yes	No/No	Yes	1	No	No	No	No/Yes
Overture	GenieSoft	31	Yes	128th note to double whole note	Yes	Yes/Yes	Yes	1 included, others can be added	Yes	Yes	No	Yes/Yes
Music Pad Pro Plus	FreeHand Systems	4 on Main Menu, 11 on Annotation Menu	N/A	N/A	No	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes, when transposing from Solero File	N/A

**Product-by-Product Comparison  
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Editing Views**

Product	Manufacturer	Arrange Editor	Score Editor		Mixing Editor	Tempo Editor	Piano-Roll Editor	Event Editor	Drum Editor
Mastering Music	Datasonics	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
SmartScore X	Musitek	No	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Encore	Gvox	No	Yes		No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Notation Composer	Notation Software	No	Yes		No	Yes	Yes, integrates the piano roll with notation, displaying the notation right on top of the notes	Yes	No
Play Music	Notationware	No	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
NOTION/PROTEGE (same features except where noted)	Notion Music	No	Yes		Yes	Yes	No	No	No

ScoreWriter	GenieSoft	Via MIDI Data View	Yes		Yes via Tracks Windows	No	No	No	No
Overture	GenieSoft	Via Piano-Roll view and On-Screen MIDI Editing Views	Yes		Yes via On-Score MIDI Editor and Piano-Roll Views	Yes via On-Score MIDI Editor and Piano-Roll Views	Yes On-Score MIDI Editor and Piano-Roll Views	Yes via	Yes via Piano-Roll View
Music Pad Pro Plus	FreeHand Systems	No	You can edit a score form standard touch screen, graphic files only.		No	Yes, for Solero files	N/A	N/A	N/A

Arrange Editor – an overview of the song with one row for each track showing relative pitch and density of information. This page is used to copy and move blocks of music around graphically to create an arrangement of a song  
Score Editor – this displays notation for one or more tracks from the song  
Mixing Editor – this displays a panel for each track in the format of a mixing console, with each panel containing a volume fader, pan knob and reverb and chorus knobs  
Tempo Editor – this displays the tempo graphically as a line and allows editing of tempo graphically to create changes, accelerandos, diminuendo and fermata

Piano-Roll Editor – this displays the MIDI notes as colored rectangles on a grid against a piano keyboard. Dragging the notes allows editing of pitch, position and length. Use the velocity graph to edit note velocities graphically.  
Event Editor – this displays a complete list of all MIDI events; notes, key pressure, controllers, after touch, pitch bend and system exclusive. Edit these in-line.  
Drum Editor – this displays one row for each drum sound, with the MIDI notes shown as colored rectangles indicating the drum sound, position and length. Edit these drum notes by dragging to edit the drum sound, position and length. Use the velocity graph to edit note velocities graphically.

**Product-by-Product Comparison  
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Music Store Input**

Product	Manufacturer	File Formats Imported	Mouse Symbol Input	Computer Keyboard Note Input	MIDI Input (Real-Time)	Punch Recording	MIDI Input (Step-Time)		MIDI Thru	Real-Time Notation Display	Standard MIDI File Input	Audio Files	MusicXML File Input	Music Scanning Files
Mastering Music	Datasonics	MIDI, Wave	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Format 0 (single track) Format 1 (multi-track)	.WAV	No	No
SmartScore X	Musitek	TIFF, MusicXML, MIDI, ENF	Yes	Yes	Step Time, Real Time	No	Yes		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	TIFF, BMP
Encore	Gvox	MIDI, Encore, MusicTime, MasterTracks, MusicXML, Rhapsody	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	No	Yes	No, Planned	Yes	MusicXML, MIDI
Notation Composer	Notation Software	MIDI and Karaoke	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Temporarily displayed as piano roll notation is converted to notation.	Yes	No	No, planned	No
Play Music	Notationware	MIDI, NIFF, XML targeted for quarter 1 2009	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	.WAV or .MP3 targeted quarter 1 2009	Targeted quarter 1 2009	No
NOTION/PROTEGE (same features except where noted)	Notion Music	MIDI and MusicXML	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	.WAV at 44.1Khs/16 bits	Yes	MIDI, MusicXML
ScoreWriter	GenieSoft	MIDI, MusicXML, MusiTime, Encore	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	MIDI, MusicXML
Overture	GenieSoft	MIDI, MusicXML, MusiTime, Encore	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	MIDI, MusicXML
Music Pad Pro Plus	FreeHand Systems	Any file with a print feature	No, touch screen entry	No, there is a note palette on the Pad	No	N/A	No		Will play General MIDI files through audio port	For Solero file yes	Yes	MP3	No	All

**Product-by-Product Comparison  
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Music Store Output**

Product	Manufacturer	Print Output	Print with Clip Art or Photo	Standard MIDI File Export		Audio Files	Human Playback	Windows/Mac Proprietary File Format Compatibility	MusicXML Output	Produce CD from Notation Files
Mastering Music	Datasonics	Yes	Extract as WMF into Word	Yes (0 and 1)		Yes (.WAV)	Yes	.MSW	No	Yes
SmartScore X	Musitek	Yes	No	Yes		.WAV	Variable randomizer included	No	Yes	Yes
Encore	Gvox	Yes	No	Yes		MIDI, convert to MP3 or .WAV w/3rd party freeware	Yes	Yes	Yes	With 3rd Party Software
Notation Composer	Notation Software	Yes	No	Yes		No	No	No	Yes	No
Play Music	Notationware	Yes	Yes	Yes		.WAV, .MP3	No, targeted quarter 1 2009	No	No, targeted quarter 1 2009	No, targeted for quarter 1, 2009
Notion/Protégé (same product except where noted)	Notion Music	Yes	No	No		Export as .WAV	Yes through NTempo	Yes	Yes	Yes, need CD burner
ScoreWriter	GenieSoft	Yes	No	Yes		Yes, .WAV	No	Yes	No	Yes, using VST Instruments
Overture	GenieSoft	Yes	Can draw graphics (Mac only)	Yes		Yes, .WAV	No, but total manual control on every note is possible	Yes	No	Yes, using VST Instruments
Music Pad Pro Plus	FreeHand Systems	Yes, Via MusicPad Manager Software in compliance with copyright laws.	Any file type, including pictures, can be converted to .fh format and printed	No		Yes, .WAV and .MP3	Yes	Only for graphic images to print. Once in .fh format, all editing features can of product can be used.	Yes	N/A

**Product-by-Product Comparison  
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Technical Support**

Product	Manufacturer	Phone Support	E-mail Support	Warranty Period for Free Support	Cost for Out-of-Warranty Support		# of Tutorials/# of Video Tutorials	User-Forum	Warranty Satisfaction	Demo Download	Demo Restrictions	CD Demo
Mastering Music	Datasonics	Yes	Yes	12 months	\$1.00 per student		400+ /75+	No	7 days return for full refund	Yes	Has save and print disabled	Available from Alfred Publishing, Limited lesson topics
SmartScore X	Musitek	805-646-5841	tech@musitek.com	Free lifetime	Free		6/None	Yes	With 30 days if tech support fails to solve issue	Yes	No printing/no saving/No PDF recognition	Same, except PDF file recognition included
Encore	Gvox	Yes	Yes, through website	Unlimited for current product version	Free		1/0	Yes	With 30 days if tech support fails to solve issue	Yes	No Save/Print/Untimed	No
Notation Composer	Notation Software	No	Yes	Free for life	Warranty unlimited email and web site support		4/0	Yes	90-day full money back guarantee	Yes	30-day Fully functional	No
Play Music	Notationware	Yes	Yes	No Limit	Free		No	No	No	No	Print/Save features disabled	If Requested
NOTION/PROTEGE (same features except where noted)	Notion Music	Yes	Yes	Support is Always Free	Support is Always Free		17 (Need Internet access)	Yes	No	No	30 days, fully functional	Yes, DVD format, sent by mail
ScoreWriter	GenieSoft	No, may leave message	Yes	Unlimited	N/A		0/0	Yes	No	Yes	15-day limit	N/A
Overture	GenieSoft	No, leave message	Yes	Unlimited	N/A		0/0	Yes	No	Yes	15-day limit	N/A
Music Pad Pro Plus	FreeHand Systems	Yes, M-F 8am to 5 p.m. Pacific Time	Yes	By phone, 30 days, by e-mail unlimited	30 phone, e-mail unlimited		1/1	Yes	30-Day Money-Back Guarantee	Yes	Need Product Key	DVD



technology but would like to create music compositions arrangements and teach their students. The product is very affordable and yet powerful (up to 24 staves, MIDI recording, lyrics and more) and very user-friendly with 31 templates. Site licenses can bring down the price even more. One can easily create a composition, save, and print it in 30 minutes or less. And best of all, the manual is only 17 pages long.

Looking for a more innovative music hardware/combination to create and share musical compositions? Investigate the *MusicPad Pro Plus* by FreeHand Systems ([www.freehandsystems.com](http://www.freehandsystems.com)). This tablet-like device for viewing and editing music and other documents enables convenient usage and storage of sheet music in digital format on the unit itself or on a USB memory stick inserted into the product. It can store thousands of pages of music with easy access, from home or from school. It turns pages automatically. Users can zoom in to edit more precisely and scores can be annotated in color. Quick revisions to existing sheet music, guitar tab or lyrics can be made using the Pad's editing features. Touch the screen to erase notes/markings; then use the a point-and-click notation palette to insert notes, rests, accidentals, dynamics markings, bowings, performance instructions and more. Import blank staves and do simple music composition using the same features. A future update will provide "scratch pad" notation functions, where if the user hand-draws staff lines, printed ones appear.

## No More Hide-and-Go-Seek

Unfortunately, there are few sources for purchasing music notation products these days. But, there are three very knowledgeable and reliable sources to shop for music notation software. Kel-

ly's Music & Computers ([www.kellysmusicandcomputers.com](http://www.kellysmusicandcomputers.com)); Romeo Music ([www.romeomusic.net](http://www.romeomusic.net)); and Mike Klinger ([www.midiworkshop.com](http://www.midiworkshop.com)). Kellys Music offers a Web database wizard that can compare several music notation products side-by-side.

In September's issue of *SBO* look

for a run-down on the complete family of music notation products by *Sibelius* and *MakeMusic (Finale)*, completing the spectrum of quality music notation products. One last note: most of these products offer demos, so try several demos before considering a purchase.