

K-6 Douglas County Music Tech In-Service:

Creative Practice Ala Play-Along Mode!

by John Kuzmich, Jr.

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at Summit View Elementary School

On-line Clinic Hand-Out with Links at:

<http://www.kuzmich.com/handouts/Douglas.pdf>

A. **Open Dialogue and Overview of Music Notation Applications.** For what is the market, go to: <http://www.sbomagazine.com/sbomag/apr04/technology.html> for “Notation Software on a Budget.” In addition, the March, 2003 issue of *Keyboard Magazine* has an article entitled: Differences between Sibelius and Finale. It is enclosed as a separate handout, but note, the author apparently used an older version of Finale instead of 2004 when comparing it to Sibelius. So there are many inaccuracies in addition to having Finale 2005 available now.

B. **SmartMusic:** <http://www.smartmusic.com>. It is an intelligent/interactive automatic accompanying application. When used with **Finale 2005**, any and all school and private lesson music can be used in **SmartMusic**. See: <http://www.sbomagazine.com/sbomag/sep04/technology.html>

C. **iPAS:** <http://www.pyware.com>. **Standards of Excellence** accompaniments computerized and free. Excellent product. See: <http://www.sbomagazine.com/sbomag/sep04/technology.html>

D. **Warner Bros. Band Expressive and Orchestra Expressive Methods.** Software is similar to *iPAS* and free with individual books.

E. **Molto Music:** <http://www.moltomusic.com>. The **Musician's Online Practice Planner** is the most convenient way for music teachers to track their students' practicing. All of the features are online. Nothing ever has to be downloaded, and the students do not need e-mail information to their teachers. The students' practice information is available to the teacher when the teacher logs in. Using an online database approach to software is a huge timesaver and eliminates the now-dated concepts of minimum system requirements, Mac vs. PC, etc.

* **Workshop demo account:** user name: demoteacher@moltomusic.com
Password: 1LWK3

* The class is called: “Jazz Combo”

F. **Music Ace:** <http://www.harmonicvision.com>. The ultimate elementary/middle school entry-level music theory application.

G. **Band In-A-Box:** <http://www.pgmusic.com>. The most versatile automatic accompaniment generating software application. See:
<http://www.sbomagazine.com/sbomag/sep04/technology.html>
<http://www.pgmusic.com/garagebandtutorial.htm> is a great tutorial for using **Band-in-a-Box** with **GarageBand**.

H. **Superscope PSD 300 and PSD 220 and PSD 230.** The most efficient dedicated hardware ever produced for the music educator. See:
http://www.kuzmich.com/handouts/IAJE_workshop.html

Creative Practicing: With Automatic Accompaniment Generating Software/Hardware Applications

Four Workshop Topics with Comprehensive On-Line Hand-Out at:
http://www.kuzmich.com/IAJE_workshop.html for more in-depth information.

1. **Play-along Software Solutions** are inexpensive and very flexible for the amount pitch/tempo/looping variations possible. Several excellent products are available all featuring the basics and advanced features. Playback musicality has really improved over the years. Can create a quality automatic accompaniment in literally seconds or perhaps a minute or two. Love the variety of music styles that are available with authentic sounding accompaniments. Recommended that a quality speaker system be used for maximum sound quality because internal computer speakers are generally unsatisfactorily at best.

- * **Band-In-A-Box** by PG Music: Web URL: <http://www.pgmusic.com>
Band In-A-Box PowerPoint slide show: Web:
mhtml:http://www.kuzmich.com/2004_Band_In_A_Box.mht!2004_Band_In_A_Box_files/frame.htm
- * **SmartMusic** by MakeMusic. Web: <http://www.smartmusic.com>
- * **Finale 2005** works seamlessly with SmartMusic in producing SmartMusic files with full assessment accountability. Web URL: <http://www.makemusic.com>
- * **MIBAC Jazz** by MiBAC Music. Web: <http://www.mibac.com/> and
<http://www.mibac.com/Pages/jz.html>.
- * **Jammer Pro 5** by Soundtrek. Web: <http://www.soundtrek.com/content/index.php>

2. Transcribing Software Solutions for Play-Along Recordings

Very flexible usage in changing pitch/tempo/looping that is great for your CD recordings. Relatively inexpensive, offering a lot of applications.

- * **SlowGold and SlowBlast!** by World Wide Woodshed, distributed by Hal Leonard Corp. Web: <http://www.worldwidewoodshed.com/>
- * **Transkriber** by Reed Kotler, published by Reed Kotler. Web: <http://www.reedkotlermusic.com/rkm/default.htm>
- * **Transcribe!** by Seventh String Software. Web: <http://www.seventhstring.com/>

3. Hardware Solutions: Variable Pitch/Tempo CD Players/Recorders

Not as flexible as software applications in pitch/tempo flexibility but very easy to use and in some cases, you literally have a recording studio in a box without the need for a computer. Thus, dedicated hardware solutions make great portable systems. Recommended external speakers for maximum digital quality.

- * **Superscope PSD 300 CD Recording Systems.** Web: <http://www.superscopetechnologies.com>, <http://www.superscopetechnologies.com/press/IAJEcolumn.shtml> and <http://www.superscopetechnologies.com/products/PSD300/index.shtml>
- * **Alesis PlayMate Guitarist.** Web: <http://www.alesis.com/products/PlayMateGuitarist/about.html>
- * **Alesis PlayMate Vocalists.** Web: <http://www.alesis.com/products/PlayMateVocalist/about.html>
- * **Tascam CD-VT1, CD-GT1 and CD-BT1.** Web: <http://www.tascam.com/Products/CD-VT1.html>

4. Play-Along Repertory: 1,000+ Albums

Can't live without play-along repertory for the touch of real musicians! Works great with both transcription software and dedicated hardware solutions. Offers the best audio solutions.

- * **Jazz Books:** <http://www.jazzbooks.com>. Contains over 110 CD play-along albums.
- * **Hal Leonard Corp.** Web: <http://www.halleonard.co> and http://www.kuzmich.com/hal_leonard_summary.html
- * **Music Minus One Corporation.** Web: <http://www.musicminusone.com>. Created the play-along market in 1950 and now offers more than 835+ jazz play-alongs. Alfred Publications: Web: <http://www.alfred.com>
- * **Theodore Presser Company.** Web: <http://www.presser.com>. Klezmer play-along.
- * **Mel Bay Music.** Web: <http://www.melbaymusic.com>

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