Collaborative Musical Analysis: The Integration of the Tablet PC into the Theory Classroom

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Abstract
The teaching of musical analysis has virtually remained unchanged for the past century. Students are required to look through the printed score while marking changes in key, form, and musical structure. The instructor must spend a significant amount of time guiding the student through the musical score, step by step. Students often have a difficult time maintaining placement in the score while the instructor is speaking. One of the greatest shortcomings of this current system is the fact that the students are limited to the amount of music that they are able to focus on at a given time. Over the past three years, the faculty at Appalachian State University has integrated the Tablet PC into the music theory classroom. Undergraduate music students now have the ability to create musical analysis files using the Tablet PC. A recent study at Appalachian State University examined the benefits of the Tablet PC in regards to collaboration and cognitive learning. A secondary goal of this study was to create awareness regarding the benefits of the Tablet PC through an open-source website highlighting student musical analysis.

Stages of Implementation
- Single tablet used by instructor (Spring 2007)
- Tablets used in summer graduate course (Summer 2007)
- Tablets used in upper level undergraduate course (Fall 2008)
- Tablets used in multiple graduate and undergraduate courses (Spring 2009-present)

Funding
- Microsoft Tablet PC Award
- Appalachian Foundation Fellows
- Academic Affairs
- Hayes School of Music

Courses
- Theory III/Aural Skills III
- Theory IV/Aural Skills IV
- Theory V
- Analytical Techniques
- Pedagogy of Music Theory
- Choral Literature
- Marching Band Techniques

Future Plans
- Participate in a DyKnow/Microsoft Case Study
- Develop and publish articles regarding usage of tablets
- Create a collaborative classroom with another Tablet University for music analysis
- Secure funding for Tablet upgrades by 2011
- Develop summer "TIME workshop" for K-12 teachers in music pedagogy and technology

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- Microsoft, Inc.
- Appalachian Foundation Fellows
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For further information
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