Table of Contents

CHAPTER 4: CAI and the Internet

You mean I can teach music from the Internet? The answer is an astounding "Yes!" In the last few years the amount of resources available to teachers has grown incredibly. Most of these resources are free, and others aren't. In the next chapter, Teacher Supports, we'll discuss the use of some subscription-type websites, but for now, we'll explore free instructional websites available for your students at school and at home.

The three main ways the Internet can be used in the classroom:

- Direct Instruction

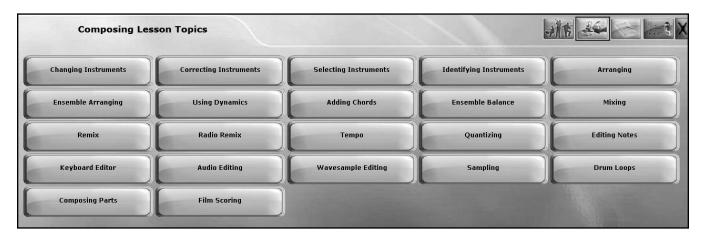- Remediation/Review

- Enrichment

We'll explore these three main areas, as well as some other great internet resources available for music classroom instruction and practice. Keep in mind, the same Computer Assisted Instruction principles apply to software applications, as well.

Direct Instruction can be greatly enhanced with engaging, interactive websites. For example, if you are introducing instrument families, offering examples from *The New York Philharmonic for Kids* website (*nyphilkids.org*) will provide great visuals for the instruments of the orchestra, including sound clips. As we discussed in Chapter 2, optimal effectiveness for your Computer Assisted Instruction, includes the use of an LCD projector connected to the computer for whole group instruction. Quality external speakers also maximize the overall effectiveness. On-board speakers are generally fine for common computer activities, but the richness of the musical examples will be served better with an enhanced sound source, such as the auxiliary port on a stereo system or superior computer speakers.

Remediation/Review, using quality internet resources, can provide students with opportunities to rehearse, review, and retain skills taught in class. Internet resources accessible from the school's music room, computer lab, library, or students' homes, can be a great support to your instruction. If your school district allows teachers space on their web server, you can create a classroom web page, which is the optimum way to deliver these resources to your students. We have very technology savvy students in the 21st century who are incredibly comfortable navigating the internet. If students and parents alike know that they can visit the school's website and then navigate to a specific classroom web page, which offers resources for rehearsing and reviewing concepts taught in class, everyone is happy!

4. **Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.**

- Alfred's *MusicTech Series: Composing Music With Notation* (Book I), provides step by step instruction of how to use notation software, compose melodies and accompaniments using a computer, and create arrangements.

- Datasonics' *Mastering Music's* "Composing" strand offers music creation and editing experimentation through varied difficulty levels, providing differentiated learning opportunities.

- The free notation program *Noteflight* (*noteflight.com*) allows the user to create, edit, arrange, and share music online, while running the program from their browser. The site states the low end version will always remain free, allowing students to compose on any home or lab computers without any required software or membership fees. The site allows the user to share their composition/arrangement by publishing it on the noteflight site, blog posts, and emailing the URL. The recipient isn't required to be registered with noteflight to play the composition in their browser.

5. **Reading and notating music.**

- Alfred's *Essentials of Music Theory* (Volumes 1–3) and *Theory Games* Software (Levels 1–5) are engaging ways to rehearse and review music theory, including reading and notating music. Both software packages include game formats, but Essentials of Music Theory also provides instruction, which can be used in individual or whole group settings.

- Datasonics' *Mastering Music's* "Publishing" strand develops students' understanding of printed musical notation. Used in combination with *Mastering Music's* "Composing" strand, students can learn how to write, edit, and print music notation using "hands-on" activities, effectively creating "meaning makers" for long-term retention of skills.