Remote Collaboration: Creating Online Music Interaction

Virtual TMEA/TI:ME Conference
February, 2021
SanAntonio, Texas

Presenter:

Dr. Fred Kersten
Boston University

Saturday 2/13/2021
7:00-7:45 PM
Q&A 7:27-7:45

Presider
Jeffrey Hall
Covington, MS Fine Arts Academy
Austin Texas

Presentation at:
http://fredkersten.com/TMEA2021/1.html

e-mail: fredkers@fredkersten.com

Abstract:
An exploration of practical "Cloud" opportunities that will allow music students to interact as they collaborate actively during your music class sessions. Learning Management Systems and integration with music cloud tools will be explored. Interaction, and evaluation opportunities from afar will be described. Collaboration tool features of available cloud tools and apps will be illustrated.

What I will cover for you today:
Practical Vehicles for Providing Remote Collaboration and Music Interaction Online!
**Determine What Music Tools your LMS will accommodate!
        a. Schoology.
        b. Canvas.
**Identify online evaluation tools available:
        a. EDpuzzle
        b. FlipGrid
**Consider collaboration capabilities of several music technology tools.
**Within limited time I have, video examples will be provided.
**Online tools considered:
        a. Flat
        b. Soundtrap.
        c. Soundation.
        d. Auralia.
        e. ProTools.
        f. GarageBand - Jam Session.
        g. Noteflight Learn
        h. SoundCheck

Flat

**Flat is being integrated with Google Classroom and Canvas and Schoology.
**Classroom composition collaboration.
**One Chromebook per student.
*Students are all about technology today. On Flat, they try to make music on their computer and have a direct feedback of how it sounds. This is the way they learn.
**Totally synchronous. Several people can work at the same time of a composition using FLAT.

Noteflight Learn
NOTEFLIGHT LEARN-more than basic notation site!
**NEW, SoundCheck-provides performance assessment and feedback for collaboration evaluation assessments by both students and teacher.
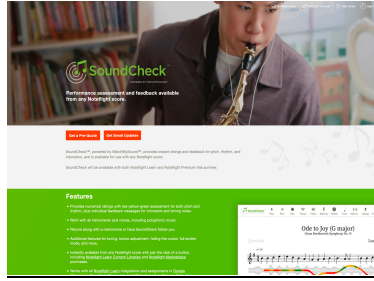
**Exciting New NOTEFLIGHT Collaboration Advances!
**Collab for music ed so teachers and students can interact, create share and listen.
***Activity templates- students/teacher sees all copies of assignments students develop.
**Live audio recording performance assessment and feedback.
**Direct Integration with other LMS.
**Teacher see notation and listen. Performance assessment-can constantly send comments to students and students can send information back.
**Noteflight Collaborative Composition Library.
**Students access and work together.

Ed Puzzle-Evaluation of Students

Allows you to use any video and do the following
1. Edit the video as to length or highlight a specific section.
2. Delete the audio track.
3. Include a voice over explaining a specific section or topic.
4. Provide a specific question that requires an answer from a student. Can be in a quiz format.

*Pull in video. Edpuzzle.com
*Assign video to students, can save their progress.
*Track students answers.
*Pauses video and allow the question/anwer to happen. Pictures available*Can bring in videos and put in assessment quizzes, comments, and explanations over top.
*If you wish to have video of a specific composition being played. You can bring in video and then assess the form of the composition as each theme or instrument group enters. The students have to answer the question or the video will not go forward.
*You have the opportunity to see a record of their answers as a group or as an individual.

Auralia® and Musition®

**Can now be integrated with your LMS! Currently support Moodle, Canvas, Blackboard, D2L, Schoology and the MusicFirst Classroom.
Students and instructors launch Auralia® and Musition® directly from the LMS, with no additional authentication required. No more importing students and resetting passwords, it's much easier
**Instructors can create tasks in their LMS, link it to a test or course in Auralia® and Musition®, and scores flow back into your gradebook. It's a HUGE timesaver.

ProTools Global Collaboration Tools
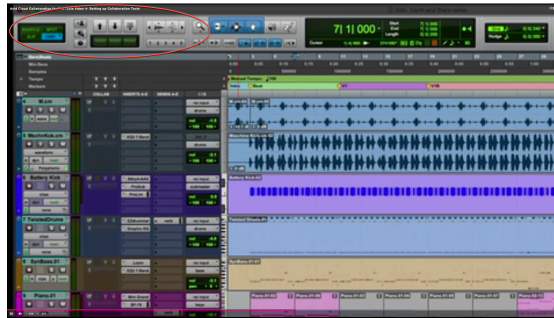
Collaboration Features
**Avid Cloud Collaboration (introduced in Pro Tools 12.5).
**Session file stored in Cloud. Has chat window.
**Buy personal cloud storage.
**Share Audio, MIDI, Edits, File Changes, two persons.
**Many can cycle I/O of project.
**Just if you are all working together in same studio.
**Can create and work offline.

Track-Based Collaboration Buttons Available
**Upload Changes.
**Download Changes.
**Download All New Shared Tracks.
**Auto Buttons for Upload, Download.
**Button to Add Collaborator to the project.
**Button to open up Artist Chat Window.
**Illuminated Button to indicate New Chat Message.
**Track Share button--upload edited track to cloud.

Soundtrap
**Soundtrap is an online music recording studio (DAW).
Mentioned as similar to Garageband but easier to work with.
**Music makers around the world can use Soundtrap to collaborate in an easy-to-use cloud-based system.
**ST user-friendly platform appeals to individuals with all levels of musical interest and ability. K-12-through higher education.

Soundtrap and Noteflight Interaction
With both Soundtrap and Noteflight communication, you can:
**Create projects that include looping, mixing, and notating.
*Remix the audio of your Noteflight score with Soundtrap instruments.
**Add Soundtrap loops to the playback of a Noteflight melody.
**Learn and reinforce music notation skills by seeing Soundtrap files in Noteflight notation.
**Use Soundtrap to collaborate with players and record & mix Noteflight scores.

Checkout: John Mlynczak - SUPER INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLABORATION
COMMUNICATION USING NOTEFLIGHT IN COLLABORATION WITH
SOUNDTRAP https://notes.noteflight.com/noteflight-soundtrap-make-music-creation-easy/

Soundation
*NEW, Collab Live! Totally synchronous online! Many people can work at same time.
*Thousands of sounds, loops, effects and instruments.
*Lives entirely in the cloud.
*Record directly into Soundation.
*Automation of track volume, panning, reverb.
*Audio loops from an extensive built-in library.
*Mix and add effects (reverb/EQ/compression etc.).
*Previous Collaboration utilizing Google Hangout

Schoology

*Add music notation and guitar scores to Schoology through FLAT. Collaborate with
Schoology and Flat instantly.
*It works with Apple and Android devices.
* It looks like Facebook.
* Tools available for you to use: newsfeed assignments (with due dates and notifications
of late work), grade book (with digital rubrics), materials (online storage of materials,
links, videos, etc.), google drive integration, calendar.
* Parents, teachers, and students can join the site to stay connected

Videos on Schoology and Music

*General Videos Available
https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=SCHOOLOGY+AND+MUSIC&qpvt=SCHOOLOGY+AND+MUSIC&FORM=VDRE

*How to embed audio/video into Schoology.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIR9YqQvPI8 embed music examples from
Soundcloud into Schoology.

*Working with Schoology and Special Teachers.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M8dk72gXADA
*MusicPlay online and Schoology
https://musicplayonline.com/workshops/musicplayonline-and-schoology/
*Schoology for music teachers
https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Schoology+for+Music+Teachers.-a0563080584

<div style="border:2px solid black; background-color:#ccffcc;">

<u>Flipgrid</u>

**Private aSynchronous video communication vehicle.
**Developed at U of Minnesota.
**Uses both text and video for interaction.
**x-number of grids can be developed for class.
       *Flipgrid (video interaction suggestions):
          "1. Office hours.
           2. Socratic discussions Flip grid videos 5 grids $50.
           3. Research presentations.
           4. Advisor check-ins.
           5. Goal setting.
           6. Team collaboration.
           7.Course reviews.
           8. Showcases.
           9. Guest speakers
           10. Study groups.
           11. Flipped classroom.
           12. Assignment reviews
           Device orientation."
Source: How do you use Flipgrid?
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1peTXmuqWIPAw7voi29tbd-RXk8y0ngUpLNCcTPrwuuY/present?includes_info_params=1&eisi=CLiOxqGviOMCFZEXJAodIlsG4w#slide=id.p13

</div>

<u>Developing Opportunities For Student Involvement:</u>
**Look over your curriculum and try to substitute interaction for lecture.
**Examine the software you are using. Note possibilities for each program and lead from them into your course curriculum.
**Assess interactive possibilities for each assignment.
**Consider interaction over lecture:
a. Student contributions initially-music history interact and present on a specific topic. Explore together!!
b. Student compositions. Explain, criticize and perform.
c. Music Theory, students develop harmonic examples and analyze as a group.
d. Consider new material as Group.
e. Group creations -composition, sound collage, theory analysis and harmonization.

<u>References and Resources</u>

*Schoology music tip https://www.schoology.com/blog/schoology-tips-how-one-music-teacher-keeping-learning-going

*FLAT https://flat.io/auth/signup?only-email   https://flat.io/my-library

* Kompoz https://www.kompoz.com/music/home Dedicated to specifically work online.
*Soundtrap and Noteflight Collaborative Videos:

*Soundtrap & Noteflight: Better Together!

*Noteflight and Soundtrap Make Music Creation Easy

*Noteflight to Soundtrap Tutorial

*What you can do with Soundtrap and Noteflight together

*John Mlynczak – President, and TI:ME -- Noteflight Learn Webinar! Super resource to access! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sz4mbpM5Xg

*Here's a couple of videos showing how a user can access the MIDI files developed in Noteflight to work with Soundtrap.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMJV8VqlQtI
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kr0VmpE05Qk downloaded export video.

* Best Websites for Music Collaboration. https://www.producerspot.com/best-websites-for-music-production-collaboration https://www.producerspot.com/best-websites-for-music-production-collaboration

*ProTools Free and information on how to use collaboration app.
https://www.avid.com/pro-tools-first https://www.avid.com/pro-tools-first/cloud-collaboration

* Best Websites for Music Production Collaboration. Information and links to outreach.
https://www.producerspot.com/best-websites-for-music-production-collaboration 1. Splice, 2. Kompoz, 3. Blend,Vocalizr, 5. ProCollabs, 6. Bandhub, Audiu.

*BOCES Reference Sites for LMS and Tech tool specifics.
BOCES Teachers Tool kit
https://sites.google.com/btboces.org/instructionaltechnologytoolkit/teacher-toolkit
Buzz https://sites.google.com/btboces.org/instructionaltechnologytoolkit/teacher-toolkit/tlms-buzz-for-teachers
Google Classroom
https://sites.google.com/btboces.org/instructionaltechnologytoolkit/teacher-toolkit/tlms-google-classroom-for-teachers
Schoology https://sites.google.com/btboces.org/instructionaltechnologytoolkit/teacher-toolkit/tlms-schoology-for-teachers
Seesaw https://sites.google.com/btboces.org/instructionaltechnologytoolkit/teacher-toolkit/tlms-seesaw-for-teachers
https://sites.google.com/btboces.org/instructionaltechnologytoolkit/teacher-toolkit/tap-edpuzzle-for-teachers EdPuzzle
PearDeck https://sites.google.com/btboces.org/instructionaltechnologytoolkit/teacher-toolkit/tap-peardeck-for-teachers
BrainPOP https://sites.google.com/btboces.org/instructionaltechnologytoolkit/teacher-toolkit/tap-brainpop-for-teachers

https://sites.google.com/btboces.org/instructionaltechnologytoolkit/teacher-toolkit/tap-nearpod-for-teachers nearpod

*Soundation Collab Live https://soundation.com/station/press/soundation-launches-worlds-most-collaborative-music-studio/#:~:text=Browser-based%20music%20studio%20Soundation%20is%20now%20launching%20a,and%20lets%20creators%20produce%20music%20in%20multiplayer%20mode

*ONLINE MUSIC PLAY-Great site for work with online teaching of music.
https://musicplayonline.com/modules/ Music PLAY
MUSIC PLAY ON LINE MAIN PAGE https://musicplayonline.com/

*Classics for Kids: https://musicplayonline.com/ Opens in a new browser tab

*Music K-8 Kids: https://www.musick8kids.com/welcome.php Opens in a new browser tab

*New York Philharmonic KidZone: https://www.nyphilkids.org Opens in a new browser tab

About Dr. Fred Kersten

Dr. Fred Kersten is currently and has been for eleven years an Online Graduate Facilitator for Boston University. He works with graduate music education majors around the world who are completing their masters and doctorate degrees in music education. Currently he is instructor in charge of online music technology courses taught.

Fred holds five degrees in music and music education. He received the B.S. and M Mus degrees from Crane School of Music in Potsdam, New York. His M.S. in Elementary Education and Certificate of Advanced Study in School Administration are from SUNY, New Paltz in New York. The Doctorate (D Ed) in music education/administration was awarded by The Pennsylvania State University. A veteran of public school music teaching in Choral, General and Instrumental areas,

Fred has taught music from Nursery, and Kindergarten through Graduate Levels. His doctoral dissertation focused on Music for the Visually Impaired and was developed from his many years of teaching music to students with exceptionalities. Interest in the recorder as a performing instrument led to studyat Indiana University and he authored a book on Teaching Recorder that has been published by NAfME. His performance repertoire includes Bach, Handel, Telemann, and the vast repertoire of classical recorder literature. His current interests are focused on music technology and his study of classical

pipe organ, which was his dual major as an undergraduate in addition to clarinet and recorder. You may visit him at his web page at: http://fredkersten.com

Flat: Online collaborative music notation software

Fred Kersten   Published online: 20 September 2020

Flat: **Online collaborative music notation software.** Cloud-based notation tool. Launched 2015. https://flat.io Pricing: Free (limited access), Monthly subscription $6.99, Annual $49, Personal Continuing License $149. Custom Site License: a one-year license can be purchased with a minimum of 51 users ($76.50). Total cost per person with the minimum user site license is $1.50.

Flat is a powerful cloud-based notation editor that is easy to learn and accessible to various levels of student learners. *Flat* possesses a variety of functionality advantages that some of its competitors lack. First, it features synchronous communication so that students can compose together in real time. Second, it seamlessly connects with Canvas[1] and Google *Classroom*, which is an advantage for many of today's online music instructors. Third, students can work with a variety of devices, including web browsers, tablets, and smartphones. Finally, students can work offline and when they reconnect to the internet their work is updated to the cloud.

Notation input is quick and efficient through the drop-down menus at the top of the score input page (see Example 1). I've found that most MIDI devices are immediately recognized by the program, and real time or step-input is possible with a MIDI keyboard. *Flat* allows users to integrate with Virtual Studio Technology (VST) audio plug-in software to hear quality audio versions of their scores.

Flat for Education, a component of the program, enables teachers to provide collaborative online scoring opportunities for students. Teachers can construct a Google *Classroom* for many types of music courses (e.g. arranging, composition, theory) and then quickly post assignments that allow students to create and share scores together. Assignments will appear in Google *Classroom* as initial posts and completed assignments can be immediately shared. Since *Flat* integrates with Google *Classroom*, tools such as Google *Docs*, *G Suite*, and *Slides* are available for communication. *Flat* is compatible with a several Learning Management Systems.[2]

Many of my students are music teachers completing graduate degrees in music education. They find *Flat* very helpful in working with their younger pupils because of its interface simplicity and ease of operation. Users can drag notation into the score without learning the system of notation input needed to work with *Finale* or *Sibelius*. Their students cannot be expected to purchase expensive and comprehensive notation software that can be difficult to learn and explain. *Flat* is compliant with Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) and Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) standards, so personal information is not shared or compromised. The platform also enables instructor online supervision and the opportunity to provide instantaneous comments. Although ideal for younger students, those teaching college-level nonmajor music students (e.g. general studies classes) might also consider *Flat* to offer simple composition opportunities for students with limited musical background and notation skills.

Flat is a newcomer to the online notation field and presently is not as comprehensive as *Noteflight*. However, the developers are continually adding new features and refining its possibilities. With frequent updates, *Flat* is continually increasing its power to be included as a member of the online notation editor community.

The free version limits users to 15 scores, but it includes most of the basic features for effective notation input and score creation. Finally, "Flat Power" (premium version only) includes many additional features such as varied fonts (Kodály symbolization, custom beaming, and swing), custom instrument access (esoteric percussion instruments), and advanced audio output features.

Example 1. Sample screenshot of the *Flat* interface
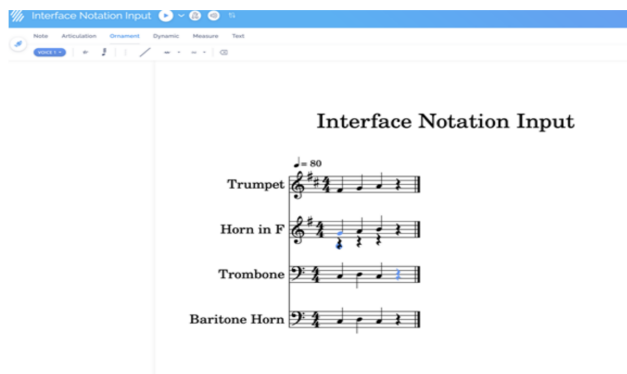
1. *Flat* connects with Canvas as an external tool by using Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI). You may need to contact your institution's information technology office to activate *Flat* as an external tool.

2. For a list of compatible LMSs see https://flat.io/edu#works-with.

Tweet   Like

Fred Kersten

Fred Kersten is Lecturer and Instructor-in-Charge of the online music technology course sequence at Boston University. A veteran of public school music education, Kersten has taught at all levels from Kindergarten to Graduate School. He is the author of *Teaching Recorder in the Music* Classroom, as well as over 50 articles, and is an active presenter for CMS, ATMI, TI:ME and NAfME.

fredkersten.com