

# MEMO



## What every classroom should have to help students find their groove

### Music technology is a vital tool in today's classroom

All too often are music educators left in the dark when they can't seem to get the point across to their students. Whether it be a musical idea, a visual concept, or a reason to practice, music technology has the answer that can raise the standard of your music program.

"What do I need and how much is it going to cost me?" This is probably the most common question asked among educators today. To start things off, every teacher should have a computer of their own, or one that has been provided by the school. Whether it's a Windows based PC or an Apple Macintosh is up to you, but the favorite among any type of musician is an Apple because of its ease of use and efficiency with media files. Don't forget to ask your administration for some sort of projection system or a TV hookup for your computer because students learn better visually.

Another thing every teacher should have in the classroom is a piano of some sort—end of story. Even if you already have a piano, you are going to need something to interface with your computer. M-Audio produces a wide range of products that interface with any computer seamlessly for a reasonable price.



M-Audio's Keystation Pro 88 is the perfect choice if you don't want to kill your budget. Not

only does this MIDI controller have 88 fully-weighted keys, but only weighs 47 pounds—and that's not all! You don't even have to plug it into a wall outlet (optional) because the controller receives power, and sends & receives MIDI from a single USB cord! And the best part is, you'll only spend \$499!

M-Audio also provides an education package for recording purposes when you need to send a copy of the fight song to the athletic department, or for when your students need to send in an audition CD for a scholarship. For \$349 you can get 2 Nova condenser mics, a Mobile Pre USB interface, Ableton Live Lite recording software, and the necessary cables.



Notation software is a must for any music educator. Make Music! offers



Finale 2006, a very powerful application that integrates with three other Make Music! applications—Finale NotePad, Finale Performance Assessment, and Smart Music.

Finale NotePad

allows you to send your students files you have created in Finale 2006 and edit them if they like. NotePad even allows students to compose their own music and send it back to you!

If you want your students to practice, practice has to be as fun and inter-



active as possible. This is where Finale Performance Assessment (FPA) and Smart Music comes in. With Finale 2006 you can scan-in or manually



notate a piece of music you are playing in class, send it to your students, and they can practice with the computer at home! If you have a 5th grade band class, or a student who is doing a solo work, they can use Smart Music to practice along with. Smart Music is capable of following sudden tempo changes—if you slow down, it slows down and the same if you speed up! You can also create Smart Music files in Finale 2006.