

Klerrisa Custom Music

# July/August E-News



## *Latest News*

This Newsletter is action packed with lots of specials and information. As you have been on holidays, and NSW teachers are headed for the HSC Music Practical Exams, I thought it might be a good idea to have one bumper newsletter rather than two short ones. So sit back, take a load off and enjoy this bumper issue! cheers Kerri

## *Need Backing Tracks...*

For the NSW teachers, remember, that if you are looking for backing tracks, then we do have thousands available. We also search for you for FREE. If we can't find it, it doesn't exist. iTunes is also a great location to find backing tracks or "Karaoke" files as they are called. At only \$1.69 in a lot of cases, it may just have the track you are looking for.

For those teachers who may have a student that needs some line removed— for eg. A ukulele player may need a version of "Hey Soul Sister" without the ukulele on it. Let me remind you that we can only do this with midi files. This becomes a really tricky business. In the example quoted above, this file would only have a melody guide, probably played by flute or something. If the student wanted to hear the voice, then that would either need to be sung with the performance or added onto the track.

This is something students sometimes can't understand, once a track has been mixed, all of the layers end up on one line and you can't separate them without the aid of some very expensive equipment. Music departments have very limited budgets and it is not something that is in the price range of most schools.

My advice in these cases is to either find other students to assist in the performance or find adults who can help out. You would be surprised how many teachers from other subject departments have musical skill that can assist. Remember, that friends, family and even your students parents may very well have the musical ability you need to help that student with their performances.

## *Special of the Month!!*

### HSC MUSIC 1 AURAL BOOK

I have had a lot of calls regarding the new book added to the AURAL 101 package—"Investigation into Musical Styles". This is a fabulous resource for all teachers but was aimed at the NSW branch of music education. This particular book is usually only available with the entire package, however, during this school term, all members of the ACCESS AREA mailing list are able to purchase the book and CD for only \$30 (inc GST).

This booklet contains 52 different musical excerpts that cover a range of musical styles. Each sheet has a list of musical concepts that can be found in the featured style. The booklet comes with a CD with all the excerpts listed.

## *Electronic Whiteboards...Here We Come!*

Attention all those lucky music rooms that have the electronic whiteboards, all of KCM's teaching resources catalogue and charts are now available in PDF format. That's right!! With the release of our new online store, we have converted all of our packages into PDF format. This means that you can buy them online for a fraction of the cost and have them delivered to your inbox. Most of our packages do contain a CD so this will be express posted to you once you have completed the online order process.

We are also starting to include Powerpoint presentation style support tools with our new packages. We are hoping that you are going to find this move useful. Remember to keep your ideas coming and let us know what you need so that we can create it for you.

## *What's New in the Access Area?*

In the Access Area this month, you will find a little something for those who need help with organising. I have included two PDF documents - The Weekly Lesson Plan and the Monthly Organiser. These are two forms that I developed when I was teaching that helped me to see the month and week clearly. They are generic so you can add the dates and classes. If you print them on an A3 Sheet side by side, you can clearly see the month or week ahead and this helps with the planning stages. These sheets are really useful when planning a unit of work for a particular class.

Remember, all you need is your LOGIN details for Access the Area. If you have forgotten these details, then simply email me and I will get back to you ASAP.

## *Tip of the Month - Tips for Getting Organized*

At this time of the year, it is always really difficult to get organised. With exams to mark, reports to get finished and all the other demands put on teachers, I thought it might be a good idea to revisit some helpful hints.

**CLEAN YOUR DESK:** It is so easy to dump and run! But try to get into the habit of clearing your desk at the end of the day. It is a simple, yet effective rule. Be selective about what you keep on your desk. If you don't use at least three times a week, put it somewhere else! Put all the things you need on a regular basis within arms reach. This will save many hours walking to and from the desk. Use stacking trays or upright folders (whatever your preference) to store things and make sure you label them.

**DEAL WITH THE MAIL:** The mail is the single most mismanaged item in a teachers day. It is so important that you have a system for dealing with the mail. Some people find an inbox and outbox useful. I found that to be a trap! If it went into the inbox, that usually meant that I might get to it eventually. So I developed a great system. I sat down and categorized my usual mail - newsletters, Board of Studies Documents, Catalogues from Suppliers, etc, and I would make sure that this mail went straight into those folders once I had read it. Anything that required my attention, I would clip into my day organiser on the day that I intended to do something about it - even if it was two months later. The same treatment can be done with "death by paper" which happens to many of us. Executive meeting minutes etc, should all be put away once they have been dealt with.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOLDER:** It is common for teachers to undergo Professional Development. Teachers in NSW have at least three days throughout their teaching year. This can generate a lot of paper and a lot of information. Store it all in one folder. This way, you can refer to it easily and it makes preparing your next CV a lot easier.

**THE VALUE OF TWO BINDERS:** Learn the value of two different types of binders - a class binder and a curriculum binder. Use binders to organize curriculum materials for each unit. Put a copy of the overall unit, lesson plans, then all reproducible or resources behind the lesson plan. Next year, you'll be ready to go with minimal work. Ensure that you keep a master copy in the folder. Make a class binder in which you keep all information about each class and track parent communication. Add all class-related documents, such as a syllabus, parent letters, newsletters, and a log of parent contacts by both phone and email. Use this binder to document problems with student behaviour, as well.

## *An old idea has a makeover!*

We have had a package on our catalogue for some time. It is called "Rhythm - The Flexible Element". This is a fantastic package with loads of great ideas. I have been in discussions with some wonderful teachers and they believe that this package would be more useful if it were split up. So that is what we have done. We are removing "Rhythm - The Flexible Element" from the catalogue and replacing it with three new titles:

**"STOMP OUT LOUD" - A PRACTICAL APPROACH**

**"BEATBOXING" - A HOW TO GUIDE**

**"TAIKOZ" - THE ART OF JAPANESE DRUMMING**

**STOMP OUT LOUD** - This package will require access to the DVD "Stomp Out Loud". This can be purchased from all good DVD retailers.

**TAIKOZ - THE ART OF JAPANESE DRUMMING** will require access to the DVD "Taiko - Live At Angels Place". This can be purchased from all good DVD retailers.

**BEATBOXING - A HOW TO GUIDE** can be taught as is, but is best used in conjunction with youtube.

INDIVIDUAL COST: Hardcopy - \$25 (inc GST)      PDF email - \$20 (inc GST)

**AVAILABLE AUGUST 25!!! ORDER YOUR COPIES NOW!!!**

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