Title of Session: MusicShake - Musicmaking for everyone!
Moderator: Kihong Bae and Luke Seo
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Room: MusicShake Group

JoanC: Hello Kihong! What is on the agenda tonight ? I am new to this group

BJB2 waves hi

KihongB waves hi to everyone

KihongB: Hi Joan

KihongB: Sorry we just came back to the office and put the agenda on

KihongB: today we play to talk a bit about our Facebook App

JoanC: Ok, I'm not on Facebook due to warnings from our district regarding lawsuits in Ky. against teachers linked as "friends" and shared photos

JoanC: It's a shame that people become so paranoid and a few have to ruin good things that can be great tools for others.

BJB2: Facebook is pretty much like any other application....you control what takes place in the environment

KihongB: hmm..that's a real shame...

KihongB: I didn't know there were these type of lawsuits

BJB2 nods...employers are also checking out FB accounts of job applicants

LukeS joined the room.

LukeS: Hello

BJB2 smiles. I was just going to ask you if you were too tired to climb the stairs, Luke!

JoanC: We were told in a staff meeting that in one case a teacher was at a wedding reception, left that reception early, the reception got out of hand and someone at the wedding shared the photos on Facebook. While the teacher was not in any compromising photos, they were associated with the event.

KihongB: wow...

JoanC: sad

KihongB: that's REALLY sad...

JoanC: guilty by association?

BJB2: how the heck is that the teacher's fault?! I can see if it was her account…but yikes!

KihongB: it just disappoints me how people find all these ways to use the internet inappropriately

JoanC: who knows, it's pending litigation was what we were told. What part of our lives are private?

LukeS: life is not private with Facebook, but it sure keeps people connected

LukeS: Joan, do you currently use Facebook?

JoanC: No, I just email photos to family or friends.

LukeS: BJ - are you a fan of Facebook?

BJB2 sighs...yes, I have a facebook page and I created a Tapped In group in FB

BJB2 . o O (just trying to keep up with you young whippersnappers!)

KihongB: So shall we start by introducing ourselves as usual?

BJB2 polishes her cybergranny badge

BJB2: good idea, Kihong

LukeS: Hello, this is Luke, and I am with Musicshake

KihongB: I'm Kihong, also with Musicshake

JoanC: Hello, I'm Joanie and I teach elementary music K-5

BJB2: I'm a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In and a retired art and communication teacher located in Pennsylvania

JoanC: I'm not retired but graduated the first time in 1983, so I could have 25 yrs in but this is my 4th yr teaching music

BJB2: what age group, Joanie?

JoanC: 5yrs - 11, and they rock!!!

BJB2 smiles. Yep!

LukeS: that's great... Joan, what kind of creative musical activities take place in your class?

BJB2: I assume that Kihong and Luke want to introduce us to their Facebook page....can you tell us why you feel that this is an important resource?

LukeS: well, BJ, we had that planned initially

LukeS: but we would like to keep our topics relevant to the participants, so we may veer off to introducing Musicshake first and maybe dabble a little with Facebook later

JoanC: Well, these past 4 weeks we've been working on rhythms and we are at the point now that they are creating their own rhythms on dry erase staffs using either rhythm words w/younger ones, ta, ti-ti, etc. or notes, qtr, eighth, whole, half with older ones. Then we play them as a group on xylophones

LukeS: you are our guest of honor today Joan... :)

BJB2: I do have a thought or two about using a variety of sites to establish a community, if we have time later.

JoanC: 5th grade just started their Colonial Music unit

JoanC: Thanks Luke

JoanC: I would also like to ask a question or two about the getting started in Music Shake vs. the video

LukeS: would like to hear those thoughts BJ... let's bring that up during our Facebook discussion

LukeS: sure... Joan, go ahead with your question then

JoanC: I know that once you choose your genre, then you choose your tempo. But the tempo keeps looping and I can't x out of that box to view all the boxes I can click on. What am I doing wrong?

LukeS: oh, it seems you have already installed the program and are running into some issues

JoanC: how do I correct it

LukeS: ok, could you just walk me through, which genre did you choose?

JoanC: Let me think, what was before jazz and started with a T?

LukeS: Trance?

JoanC: that's it

JoanC: I used 90 for my meter

JoanC: Maybe it's just caught in a trance lol

LukeS: LOL!

LukeS: so I guess you clicked on the number 90?

JoanC: yes, and later I tried it again after signing out using 140?

LukeS: and what ended up happening is that it seems that the program is just hanging?

JoanC: Yes, I can click on some of the boxes in front of the tempo window but I can't see behind it and it doesn't change anything except light up that box

LukeS: I think I have a few ideas... what kind of internet service do you use?

JoanC: I can't hear it either, I just get a headphone symbol. Will it not use my speaker

LukeS: not it will use your default sound and recording settings

JoanC: Explorer

LukeS: sorry I meant Cable, DSL, dial-up

LukeS: depending on the speed of the network (internet connection), Musicshake may take a while to load, especially after choosing the tempo

JoanC: DSL with a modem; it's connected with our local telephone company

LukeS: see, what happens in the background is that our music engine is choosing the music samples and bringing them over the network

LukeS: ok DSL should be ok then

JoanC: so what do I do?

LukeS: let's try another way this is pretty straight forward - close the Musicshake program, go to our web site (musicshake.com), on the bottom right you should see something called Song Template and below the list of instruments, there is a button called USE THIS TEMPLATE

LukeS: go ahead and try to click this (make sure your current Musicshake program is closed)

JoanC: hold on

JoanC: k got it

LukeS: now, just wait a bit and let's see if you get the program to work normally

JoanC: do I click on musicshake it's free download now

LukeS: you already installed Musicshake, correct?

JoanC: yes

LukeS: ok, so just go to where it says Song Template

LukeS: and look for Use This Template

LukeS: Musicshake is not open on your computer right now, correct?

JoanC: do I login

LukeS: no need for now

LukeS: we just want to make sure that you can use the program properly

JoanC: K it just shows a sample mixing board

LukeS: so Musicshake is open now?

JoanC: yes it's playing a rock version of Canon in D

LukeS: aha! nice

LukeS: so at least now I know that this is working... to guess what happened earlier...

LukeS: I think that after you choose genre and tempo, you have to just wait a bit (without clicking too much)

LukeS: and the sound samples will load properly and you will see this same interface

JoanC: Oh, it's a patience thing, well sorry but you're dealing with a musician who teaches Kindergarten and sometimes their attention span rubs off on me

LukeS: not a problem, we will make this application lightning fast some day...

JoanC: I know, I need to work on that

LukeS: to explain this a little bit, although I'm sure you've figured this out by yourself

LukeS: the way one makes music is by clicking these samples on and off

LukeS: it's quite a simple and quick approach to making music - that sounds great from the start

JoanC: So, it's an adaptation of pre-existing samples?

LukeS: they are pre-existing in the sense that they were pre-made

LukeS: our in-house musicians built every one of them (over 500,000 samples)

JoanC: right, but what if someone wants to create their own melody? Does it allow that option as well?

LukeS: yes, that is an option

LukeS: users are able to record their own voice or instruments (audio, not MIDI) using the record button

JoanC: Cool, so what do I do to get to play with it more, just log on to it and be patient?

LukeS: sure, playing more will give you a very clear idea of what you can do with this tool

LukeS: Musicshake takes a different approach in creating music

JoanC: I'm so glad it's not midi!! My kids can't all play keyboard and that would be frustrating if they couldn't get the sound they hear in their heads. That's why I don't use Symbalis or Finale, it won't do vocals in audio

LukeS: instead of providing you with a completely blank canvas to draw (using a visual analogy), it gives you a clear guide and let's you color it in with your favorite colors

LukeS: yes, I see...

JoanC: Does MusicShake score this for later use? and is it in printable format

LukeS: Joan, good question, Musicshake currently focuses only on audio

LukeS: I am thinking of Musicshake more as a real-time music experiencing aid in a class

JoanC: That's okay, but it would be so cool to have my students copyright their pieces and then we could tie it in with rights and legalities and social studies and government.

JoanC: I know they could copyright recorded copies, but it's extra special to see it scored!

LukeS: yes, that's definitely a good approach, and if you want to delve into the pure legal side of Musicshake, we have a pretty good reading material on our terms of use

BJB2 wonders if Joan could collaborate with high school students to do the scoring?

JoanC: I can't wait to put in a tech order and show my computer tech team mate. We use computer lab for a special area on a 4day rotation.

KihongB: Joan - are you a MAC or PC school?

JoanC: That would be wonderful BJ

JoanC: PC school

KihongB: that's good to know. Musicshake is for PCs for now :)

JoanC: Keep up the good work, there is a definite need!

BJB2 cheers for Kihong and Luke!

JoanC: Yea!!!!!!!!!!!!

LukeS: One thing about scoring is that students could go the other way round - write music and play (or sing) into Musicshake

KihongB: we've had students use Musicshake to create school fight songs FYI

LukeS: sure it's not a full score, but having a full band score is not an easy task for even the professional programs

KihongB: good way to get them into being more creative and earn the recognition of their peers

JoanC: That's true, I could take the songs they are creating now and record it in class, then they could build on the parts individually in computer lab

LukeS: yes, also this served well as an introduction to song writing

BJB2: Joan, it would be so cool if you could put their compositions on an mp3 file and then download them to a K-12 classroom

BJB2 . o O (we can discuss that during your tour on Friday)

JoanC: Correct, it would be cool to download their song in a MP3 format and burn a cd for their class for them to take home. These are low income kids, and

JoanC: Hey BJ, great minds think alike!

KihongB: and it could be a great fundraiser program

KihongB: create songs, make CDs and sell them

KihongB: very cost efficient

JoanC: Wow!!! Now we're talking

BJB2 . o O (with the tiny fee to MusicShake for using their tools)

JoanC: That could also serve as a project for my 688 class on gaming and technology

KihongB: oh yes. Musicshake and gaming actually go hand in hand

JoanC: Feed the program and it grows into a fantastic tool!

KihongB: it looks as if most of the gamers are into creating something on their own

KihongB: music of course one of them

JoanC: Definitely, I've been blogging about how I have issues with Guitar hero because it uses colors instead of colors with note names or letters with it. Then it could really be a teaching tool. But it does engage the students.

JoanC: I'd love to see what the new Beatles game offers.

KihongB: me too :)

JoanC: Happy Birthday Beatles!

LukeS: I think Guitar Hero is definitely a rhythmic experience, but not necessarily

academic

JoanC: True, it's drum section is very good according to my daughters. They use it in middle school

JoanC: Facebook

LukeS: Facebook?

JoanC: Topic of the day?

BJB2: ready for that discussion?

JoanC: Sure

LukeS: shall we at least touch... the topic then?

LukeS: ok

LukeS: Musicshake is not only about making music

JoanC: but sharing it too

BJB2: Why did you choose to use Facebook for Musicshake, Luke and Kihong?

LukeS: there is a whole community based on sharing music created with Musicshake

LukeS: BJ, we are actually not limted to Facebook...

BJB2: what others?

LukeS: Once you create music with Musicshake and post the music on our web site

LukeS: you can literally take embed that music anywhere that accepts flash codes

JoanC: TeacherTube?

LukeS: in other words, anywhere that YouTube videos get embedded, Musicshake can go too

LukeS: sure, why not

JoanC: so what if You Tube is blocked but Teacher Tube is not?

LukeS: YouTube was just a comparison

JoanC: gotcha

LukeS: we started with the idea of sharing

LukeS: and picked the most effective social tool to create our own pages, in Facebook lingo it is a "Facebook App'

JoanC: Ooo

LukeS: so not only can you post your music on Facebook's wall

JoanC: Download it to our school's website?

LukeS: you can have an almost seamless experience between Musicshake and Facebook if you install the Musicshake App on Facebook

LukeS: well, although it is an "App" Facebook Apps are all within Facebook, so you don't actually download them

LukeS: I would like to encourage you to try it out just to see

JoanC: ok like iphone apps

LukeS: http://apps.facebook.com/musicshake/

LukeS: give it a try later...

JoanC: thanks for the site, I'll see what I can do after I create a bit

LukeS: Joan, feel free to email me for any assistance using Musicshake in your classes

LukeS: **LukeS**eo@musicshake.com

BJB2: wow, that was a fast hour!

JoanC: thanks for your help tonight guys. Sorry, that's Ohio talk. I'm in KY now

JoanC: Thanks ya'll

BJB2: Thanks, Luke and Kihong. I look forward to seeing you again in November

KihongB: thank you for your participation!

LukeS: thank you for your time...

KihongB: thanks everyone

JoanC: Have a good week! and thanks all!

LukeS: bye~

JoanC: nite