

# Creating Music Experiences with Technology in the Elementary/General Classroom

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**What is TBMI?** *Technology based music instruction or using technology in support of the teaching of music skills and concepts. Models from teachers in online graduate course at Boston University.*

## TBMI Activity A

**Goal:** Understanding AB form & melodic shape

**Grade:** 5th

**Software:** MTD

**Hardware:** LapC, DeskC, VidP in classroom

**Activity:** Over 3 sessions Ss in teams create A then B 8-bar phrases with MTD; T's models of good/weak phrases

## TBMI Activity B

**Goal:** Error detection in live performance

**Grade:** 4-5th

**Software:** GB and SIB

**Hardware:** 5 DeskP (Mac)

**Activity:** Over 3 sessions With SIB Ss notate "Twinkle, Twinkle" then with GB they record playing with instrument; compare performance with notation and mark errors; practice and record again.

## TBMI Activity C

**Goal:** Compose an ABA piece to demonstrate understanding of form

**Grade:** 5th

**Software:** GB

**Hardware:** SMART, VidP, 10 DeskPs in Library

**Activity:** Use GB loops to create ABA in one track, add complementary tracks with loops, then play or sing a pentatonic melody to complete work.

Hardware keys:

LapC: laptop computer

DeskC: desktop computer

VidP: video projection

LAB: lab of computers

CART: laptops on cart

SMART: Smart Board

Ss = Students

T = Teacher

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## TBMI Activity D

**Goal:** Experience and identify basic music notation & instruments of the orchestra

**Grade:** 3rd

**Software:** Orchestra from SMART board & ArtsAlive.ca, DSOKids.com, MusicTheory.net, ClassicsForKids.com, netrover.com/~kingskid, plus Ann Hayes "Meet the Orchestra" text.

**Hardware:** SMART and VidP in classroom

**Activity:** Over 3 sessions use text and ArtsAlive.ca, DSOKids.com, SMART Orchestra resources, games, & videos for instrument study; MusicTheory.net, ClassicsForKids.com, NetRover.com for clefs, notes names & durations; concluding with composition game on ClassicsForKids.com and create song on SMART Board.

## TBMI Activity E

**Goal:** Create music to demonstrate understanding of notation and form

**Grade:** 4th

**Software:** Ss used AUD, MusicTechTeacher.com, & flash cards from [www.netover.com](http://www.netover.com); T used PPT and FIN

**Hardware:** LAB

**Activity:** Over 4 sessions studied notes in treble/bass clef, meter, ABA and Rondo form; PPT slides from T with links to selected web games & quizzes; Ss created an ABA & Rondo song using materials from class & recorder book; Ss recorded songs played on recorders with AUD.

## TBMI Activity F

**Goal:** Analyze S's chosen pop song to demonstrate previous year's music learning

**Grade:** 5th

**Software:** Ss used PPT; T used Audacity

**Hardware:** LAB with Ss in pairs

**Activity:** Ss choose pop song; T then prepares MP3 edited recordings with AUD and a model PPT example. Over 4 sessions Ss create a PPT with 6 slides, each slide showing 4 points relevant to each music concepts analyzed (rhythm, form, melody, tone color/timbre, and harmony/texture)

## LESSONS LEARNED

1. Teachers demonstrated that programs such as GarageBand, MusicTime, and Sibelius could be used by children in grades as early as 4th grade.
2. Noteflight (web-based notation program) was popular in a variety of teaching situations.
3. Small sections of a variety of web-based music apps (musictheory.net, classicsforkids.com, artsalive.ca) could be combined with a commercial product like Audacity, Music Ace or Noteflight to create a successful TBMI project.
4. Having to work with less results in some very creative TBMI solutions (for example, the teacher who used PowerPoint to sequence the pieces of technology used)
5. Creative ways for using technology in difficult scheduling and with limited computer access.
6. Students are comfortable with technology and find its use for music learning a strong motivator and an exciting experience.

## RESOURCES

MTD: Music Time Deluxe (GVox)

GB: GarageBand (Apple); use *MixCraft* for PC

SIB: Sibelius (Avid)

SMART Orchestra: SMART Board Orchestra Galleries

ArtsAlive.ca

DSOKids.com

MusicTheory.net

ClassicsForKids.com

MusicTechTeacher.com

[www.netrover.com/~kingskid/dinsing.html](http://www.netrover.com/~kingskid/dinsing.html)

PPT: PowerPoint (Microsoft)

FIN: Finale (MakeMusic)

AUD: Audacity ([audacity.sourceforge.net](http://audacity.sourceforge.net), free!)

For other commercial and web options see my elementary/general matrix and software list from the Dupage 2010 inservice:

<http://coach4technology.net/genmusic.html>

The hotlinks for all of these are at <http://coach4technology.net/webmusic.html>