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Valley Stream Central High School District

Grade 9

Electronic Music

iPad Review 4

Fingertip Maestro for iPad

<http://fingertipmaestro.com/>

Search on App store for *Fingertip Maestro*

Cost Free - In App purchases for additional instruments available

Standard 1: Creating, Performing, and Participating

Students will compose original music and perform music written by others. They will understand

and use the basic elements of music in their performances and compositions. Students will

engage in individual and group musical and music-related tasks, and will describe the various

roles and means of creating, performing, recording, and producing music.

Standard 2: Knowing and Using Arts Materials and Resources

Students will use traditional instruments, electronic instruments, and a variety of nontraditional

sound sources to create and perform music. They will use various resources to expand their

knowledge of listening experiences, performance opportunities, and/or information about music.

Fingertip Maestro is basically an instant musical performance instrument App. Users can play beautiful harmonies and melodies without any prior musical experience just by dragging fingers left and right or play several tones simultaneously. A musician can go much further using the notated screen to play chord progressions and make musical choices which elevate the level of performance. The interface is arranged by key names in both major and minor keys and provides note choices that are arranged in a linear order of root, third, fifth, ninth, root, major 7th/7th, root, third, AND root. Additional sounds with an in app purchase compliment the supplied piano sample. Fingertip Maestro also includes a recorder, options for emailing recordings, sharing via social networking and posting to SoundCloud.

Althought this app has simple design and function, it can be a very creative app both performance wise and educationally. The music performance possibilities are endless, depending on the creativity of the individual performer. Full chords, triads and arpeggios can be played quite easily. Melodic lines can be played easily as well with a left or right swipe or tapping out individual notes. Teachers will be able to explore melody, harmony, theory, chord progressions, extended dominants and numerous other music concepts. It’s response is a little slow but that may be a function of my iPad memory dwindling! The app’s interface presents in landscape iPad positioning. When viewed for the first time Fingertip Maestro gives the impression that all performances are to be done horizontally left and right. If this app is only addressed horizontally you will you put limits on it’s possibilities. Thinking and reacting with the app horizontally and vertically will yield very interesting results. Not only is this app rich with music performance possibilities for the creative thinker it is also educationally rich for any creative teacher willing to step slightly outside it’s horizontally linear design.