Stephen Principato

Valley Stream Central High School District

Grade 9

Electronic Music

iPad Review 3

Impaktor for iPad

<http://beepstreet.com/impaktor>

Search on App store for Impaktor

Cost $5.99

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.

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Impaktor is a drum synthesizer for iPad, with a twist. It is a sophisticated programmable synthesizer that turns any surface into a playable percussion instrument. The user strikes the desktop, as a percussionist would, and Impaktor responds to the velocity of the strike via the built-in microphone. The range of available sounds is broad and diverse. It realistic replicates a variety of membranes, metallophones, cymbals, stringed instrument sounds and other acoustic percussion instruments. Impaktor’s synthesis engine is easily tweaked with it’s numerous on board user controls, which provide infinite variations on any sound loaded. The device is quite an impressive electronic instrument. It has with a 6 track sequencer so multitracked musical compositions can be created on the fly.

This app is a great choice for motivating kids to learn about rhythm, meter, note values, electronic synthesis, multitrack recording and many other musical concepts if the teacher can stand all the rapping on desks! Headphone use with this app is essential because the sounds are very high quality. I’ve had students try this app with headphones and their level of focus and concentration was extremely high because the synthesizer sounds great and it is fun to play. The right sensitivity level for the surface being playing on yields accurate pitch and rhythmic variation based on velocity. Impaktor is a real outside the box choice!