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Grade 9

Electronic Music

iPad Review 5

Sunvox for iPad

<http://www.warmplace.ru/soft/sunvox/>

Search on App store for *Sunvox* 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.

SunVox is a very unique and powerful music creation tool for the iPad. It is a small, fast and powerful modular synthesizer with a pattern based sequencer, several synthesizers,effects, several recording options, WIFI import/export and a companion free application for desktop computers. The free application is available for Windows, Mac OS X, Linux, Android, Raspberry Pi and several other systems. It is referred to as a music tracker, a type of music sequencer, which is reminiscent of past systems like the Commodore 64 and Amiga platforms. The iPad makes this app a truly portable music creation and recording application repleat with amazing sounds and options. It’s design is rooted in the beginnings of Electronic Music. This however, does not dimish it power and flexibility for the 21st century. Sunvox’s interface reminds me of Cycling 74’s Max and the open source application C Sound which at first seems daunting but with a little time and effort it yields amazing musical compositions and many creative opportunities.

It’s features are quite extensive and include:

• Modular interface.
• Highly optimized synth algorithms.
• Support of 16/24/32bit WAV, AIFF and XI samples.
• XM (FastTracker) and MOD (ProTracker, OctaMED) import.
• Multitrack WAV export;
• WiFi export/import;
• MIDI import/export;
• MIDI IN/OUT;
• Mic/Line-in recording;
• Real-time recording;
• Audiobus (INPUT and EFFECTS slots) and JACK support.

Built-in synthesizers & effects
• Analog Generator;
• DrumSynth with 120 unique synthetic drum sounds;
• FM synthesizer;
• MetaModule (use it to build your own synths/effects);
• Sampler (supported formats: WAV, XI, AIFF);
• SpectraVoice (FFT-based synthesizer for warm atmospheric sounds);
• Side Chain Compressor• Distortion; Echo; 3Band equalizer; Filter (Low,High, Band-pass, Notch); Flanger; Loop (for glitch effects); • Reverb; Vocal Filter (for human voice simulation)
• Vorbis Player;
• WaveShaper

 Sunvox, like all the apps in my portfolio, lend themselves to providing students and teachers alike with numerous creative options. Students will be able to compose music, design and connect modules for their own compositions, learn about MIDI, and recording etc. Teachers will be able to discuss and demonstrate topics such as modular synthesis, electronic music history, sequencing, midi, acoustics and so many other electronic music topics. The richness of the educational lesson choices are evident in the specifications of this program above. The list of teaching options is unending if the teacher delves into Sunvox’s interesting and intricate areas of electronic music. The learning curve of this app can be adjusted if the teacher experiments with the free version on their desktop and they view the numerous demo videos available on the internet. I’ve found that the tactile controls of the iPad are much easier to use than using the mouse on my desktop. This app is technical but created for the purpose of creating music. In the broad sense the teacher has to be creative with their lesson planning to tap into the vast resources that this app, Sunvox, has to offer.