

# Classroom Evaluation Template

This template should be used for Classroom evaluations of CD-ROMs and Websites that are designed for student or teacher use.

**Please don't use bullet points, bold or italic type in your evaluation, as this will not be recognised when the file is uploaded to the TEEM website.**

## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

This information is very important to your evaluation. Much of it can be found in the evaluation brief that came from TEEM.

**TEEM ID ref:** 69B006

**Title:** eMedia Guitar Method 1

**Publisher:** eMedia

**Type:** CD-ROM

**Evaluator Name:** Drew Buddie

**School:** Royal Masonic School

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> November 2002

**Duration of Use:** 4 weeks

**Key Stage:** 3

**School Year:** Year 9

**Subject(s):** Music

**Topic(s):**

**Machine used:** iMac (running OSX)

## 2. INSTALLATION AND ACCESS

The CD-ROM was easily installed onto the standalone iMac computer which was used for the purposes of this evaluation. The software is easy to launch and little previous ICT experience would be required for anyone wishing to use this title.

## 3. PLANNING TO USE THIS TITLE

### *A. Purpose of using this title*

At this school music classes are too large to allow this software to be used in an ordinary classroom situation. The guitar is not an instrument that is actually 'taught' during such lessons. However, some of the students have private guitar lessons with peripatetic music teachers. It would be a good idea to have a student who was just beginning such guitar lessons to use the package in an extra-curricular session to determine whether their guitar playing could improve. In addition, as a very bad guitarist myself, I decided to try the program on myself to see if it could help me to play the guitar better.

### *B. What does the title offer that other resources don't?*

There is so much contained in this package it is difficult to actually pick out one feature that stands out as being available nowhere else. It is best to say that this program is definitely the next best thing to having your own personal guitar teacher. Of course the benefit of this package is that it is eternally patient and you can replay sections as many times as you want before you move on. Some stand-out features include an animated fretboard to look at as each note is played.

A digital metronome allows you to set your own speed when it comes to playing and recording your own guitar playing. You can record your own performances so that you can compare them to the professional version. The program contains 70 songs which are available as musical notation or as tablature (which is animated as each note is played) and as audio files so that you can hear how the song should be played. Video footage also gives you valuable assistance at certain points within the program.

### *C. Differentiation*

Differentiation is achieved in this package primarily by outcome. In this way the user progresses at their own pace, repeating each lesson as many times as necessary until the task is completed to their satisfaction.

## **4. YOUR CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE OF WORKING WITH THIS TITLE**

### *A. How did you organise the classroom?*

In this case a single iMac was used in a small room with just one student using the package at any one time.

### *B. The Context*

The program was used in a situation that would allow a single person to use it to try to improve their guitar playing. It was intended to complement the lessons the student was receiving from a guitar teacher for one hour a week. We wanted to see if the student showed any form of improvement over a four-week period as a result of using this package. Given the fact that music lessons are expensive and that teachers are only available for short periods of time, it was felt that this package would be of great help to students who have such lessons and who have the determination to work independently to improve the standard of their playing. It is important to stress that we felt that self-discipline was also an important factor in the use of this package.

### *C. Ease of use – Design and Navigation*

The package is extremely easy to use and I have no doubt that any guitar-

playing beginner could pick up this software and use it whether they were ICT-literate or not. In essence the program is like a textbook insofar as it is possible to move in a linear fashion through the tasks in order. However, where the package comes into its own is the ability to access other information non-linearly as and when the need arises.

#### *D. Monitoring and Assessment*

The student is able to record their own performances at all stages of the package. This could give an external guitar tutor the opportunity to listen to the audio files saved in this way in order to monitor the student's progress. Of course it is also possible for the student to use the recorded audio file to monitor their own progress.

#### *E. Staff and Pupil Comments and Work*

The few students who used the package were impressed with it and in two cases it motivated them to purchase the package themselves for home use. One student felt that if their parents found out about the package they'd stop paying for their guitar lessons and buy the software instead! The guitar teacher found the package to be extremely useful in allowing his students to develop their skills in their own time and he saw a definite improvement in the progress of students who used this package compared to progress made by similar students in previous years who did not have access to such a program.

In my particular case, as somebody who has played the guitar badly for the past 20 years, the package was a revelation. I have found myself able to play the guitar better through following the tasks in the program – so much so that I gave a performance to a group of friends recently – something I would never have dreamt of doing in the past.

### **5. SUMMARY**

#### *A. Ease of Use*

Although on the face of it the package seems complex, it is in fact a very easy program to use. Once the method of navigation is grasped, the user can find their way around the interface with ease.

I have no hesitation in saying that someone with very little ICT experience would be able to use the package efficiently within minutes of running the program for the first time.

#### *B. Classroom Experience*

Individual students who wish to learn to play the guitar will find this program extremely useful. It seems that everything has been considered in the construction of the package. As a user you find that you are able to do almost

anything you want to do. You want musical notation? You want tablature? You got it! You want an animated fretboard? You want to hear the chords played? You got it. In short, this package has quickly become an invaluable resource for the music department and as such has ensured that many of our students will be able to make better progress in their guitar lessons than has previously been the case. It is highly recommended.