

COMPUTED ASSISTED INSTRUCTION IN MUSIC

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Have you ever wished you had an assistant or two to help with the students who are far behind or far ahead of the class? Have you ever wished each student could have a private tutor who would tailor and pace the lesson to each student's needs? Have you ever wished someone else would lead your students in drill and practice and play games with them to reinforce concepts and skills?

This year these wishes have come true at Hayhurst School (Portland Public Schools) by scheduling fourth and fifth grade students into a Computer-Assisted Instruction in Music (CAIM) lab. The CAIM lab is an outgrowth of a Portland Public Schools Grant Project to implement the use of computers in music education. During the two-year project, we have used the Alpha-syntauri synthesizer and the Apple IIe computer in a variety of ways to teach music, organize lessons, and provide student progress reports. But only one computer for a classroom full of students creates difficulties, so we came up with a new plan for this year: Hayhurst School's 15 Apple IIe's are deployed throughout the building until the last period of the day, then moved to the music lab.

Each computer has been fitted with a DAC (Digital to Analog Converter) board which increases the Apple IIe's sound capabilities and routes the sound into headphones. Fifteen software programs and two performance machines have been purchased. Total cost of setting up the lab was about \$5000 (not including the Alpha-syntauri and computer purchased earlier for about \$2500).

Students alternate regular general music classes with sessions in the lab. We have chosen software for the Apple IIe computer which will teach, drill, and play games to reinforce: pitch direction, aural and visual interval recognition, notation, phrase similarity, error detection, dictation skills, rhythm performance, vocal pitch-accuracy performance, piano keyboard skills, and composition.

At each computer is a list of lessons, detailing the lesson number, materials needed for the lesson,

will be giving several CAIM workshops this year.

time units required for the lesson and the lesson procedure. Much of the software keeps track of students' scores which are reported to the lab monitor and entered on the achievement chart before going on to the next lesson. The lesson sequence alternates and spirals between increasingly difficult aural perception and ear training, performing, and cognitive development.

In doing the research to set up this lab, I was frustrated by the lack of writing about CAIM labs. Surely others of you are doing some innovative things with computers and music. We need more sharing of our discoveries so we all don't have to keep inventing the wheel. Let's hear from you. Write or call me at Hayhurst School with any information to share or questions on our CAIM