

All-State: SmartMusic

reported by Mary Ann Bashaw

Dan Massoth of MakeMusic (formerly CodaMusic) demonstrated their computer program called SmartMusic. This program is a comprehensive music practice system that provides a play-along melody and accompaniment that will adjust to the player's performance. Tempos can be changed and repeat loops set up for more difficult sections. Students have the ability to record their playing and have the computer show them on the screen which notes were played incorrectly. Smart Music can even give students a grade and allows them to automatically e-mail the grade to the teacher along with the sheet music played with correct notes in green and mistakes in red!

This program has many features such as scales and exercises that will enhance students' progress. Tempos can be set that will enable students to hear and play correctly. The tempos can be increased one notch at a time to encourage a student to handle a passage confidently. There are also accompaniments to the skill-building exercises that will enhance the practice sessions.

This program is available to students at home for a reduced fee. When the teacher or school enrolls in this program, students can then enroll for only \$20.00 a year. When students use this program at home for practice, students will be able to see which notes are incorrect and be able to make the

corrections themselves. They will also be able to rehearse with the accompaniment, learn how to start better and play with the correct dynamics. Students will also be able to record themselves in order to analyze their performances through listening and with the use of the graphic assessment of their performance. This should encourage students to prepare better and produce a more musical performance.

This program operates on both PC and Mac, and is currently available for strings using the *Essentials 2000* String Method and Suzuki Books 1-4. For more information, contact MakeMusic at www.makemusic.com. †