

[English Translation]

Interactive AURALBOOK for Music Students

[eCampusToday - Hong Kong, 15 Nov 2012] As mobile apps become more popular, cell phones have changed from a communication tool to a self-learning media. The incubation company, Playnote Limited (www.playnote.com) has developed the world's first patented interactive music electronic book--AURALBOOK. It allows music students to self-learn and improve their aural skills. AURALBOOK is now available online at the App Store for iPhone and iPad users. It includes the syllabus of the aural test from Grade 1 to Grade 8 of the Association Board of Royal Music Schools (ABRSM) in the UK, the Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB) and Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) in Canada.

The developer of the AURALBOOK and CEO of Playnote Limited, Mr. Eric Yung, is a senior engineer and musician. Eric said: "An aural test is required for any music instrument examination. However, music teachers often concentrate on playing the instrument and do not spend enough time teaching the knowledge and skills for the aural test. Students cannot learn the skills without professional guidance but also cannot self-learn and improve at home. As a result, we developed AURALBOOK, which can provide real-time interactive responses in a human voice." The app is based on the aural test in music exams. The app helps students learn to sing melodies, clap rhythms and recognize features of music pieces. Through AURALBOOK's unique digital signal processing, artificial intelligence and cloud computing technology, it can listen and understand what students have sung and clapped, point out the problem and provide suggestions. "It is a breakthrough in technology. There are some other aural test training apps in the market but all of them can only help students learn and recognize music features and cannot give any feedback."

Based on its innovation, AURALBOOK earned the Gold Award of Best Lifestyle (Learning and Living) Award at the 2012 HK ICT Award ceremony. Now, more than 20 versions of AURALBOOK, which covers different grades and examinations across the world, have been launched. More than 60,000 apps have been downloaded. Users are mainly from Hong Kong, the UK, Australia and Canada.

為音樂學生而設的互動AURALBOOKR

隨著流動應用程式(app)逐漸普及，智能電話已由單純的溝通工具成為一種自學媒體。另一家科培公司Playnote Limited(www.playnote.com)研發了世界首創、且已申請專利的互動音樂電子書—AURALBOOKR，讓音樂學生可自學及改進聽力技巧。電子書現已在AppStore上架，可供iPad及iPhone用戶下載，其內容涵蓋英國皇家音樂學院的第一至八級考試、澳洲音樂考試及加拿大皇家音樂學院考試的聽力測試。

研發AURALBOOKR兼Playnote Limited總裁容志偉先生，本身亦是資深工程師及音樂家。他說：「聽力測試是所有樂器考試的其中一環。但老師往往著重指導學生彈奏音樂試內的樂曲，而未能有足夠時間教導聽力測試所需的知識及技巧；學生若沒專業指導，又難以自行在家學習及改善。所以，我們研發了AURALBOOKR，它可為學習者提供即時及互動的全人聲回應。」此流動應用程式以音樂考試的聽力測試要求為內容基礎，從中引導學生唱出旋律、拍出節奏及辨認音樂特性。AURALBOOKR透過其獨有的數位信號處理、人工智能及雲端技術，能夠聆聽及理解學生所唱出及拍出的旋律及節奏，並指出其錯處及建議改善方法。容先生說：「這確是一大技術突破。現時市場上也有類似流動應用程式，但其內容只為訓練學生辨認音樂特性而設計，且不能就其表現給予任何回應。」

憑著其創新功能，AURALBOOKR於「2012香港資訊及通訊科技獎」榮獲「最佳生活時尚獎（學習·生活）」金獎。現時，AURALBOOKR已推出20個版本，涵蓋不同音樂考試及級別，已有超過60,000次下載，用戶遍及香港、英國、澳洲及加拿大。

