Artificial Intelligent Music Teacher Provides Pitch and Rhythm Training

[Orientation Daily - Hong Kong, 2 Nov 2012] In order to boost their children's resume for school applications, many parents will have their children learn to play musical instruments and take various music exams. Besides paying a fee, parents must also put in a lot of effort. It is especially difficult for parents who do not have formal musical training. With the intention of serving the huge market of students taking music examinations, a technology company in Hong Kong, Playnote, has developed electronic book software, for mobile phones and tablet computers, to train for aural tests. Students just need to sing the melody and clap the rhythm in front of a mobile phone or tablet computer and the software will point out the error and explain the correction in a real human voice, as if a music teacher was at their service 24 hours a day.

The developer of this aural test software has the knowledge of both engineering and music. Mr. Eric Yung, who has been a private piano teacher, finds that many students just concentrate on the examination pieces and ignore the skills necessary for the aural test. As a result, students cannot get a good score on the aural test. So, Eric started to develop the aural test software--AURALBOOK to help students to improve their aural skills and allow them to self-learn.

The app includes a syllabus of examinations for the UK, Australia, Canada, etc. The software is designed in electronic book format. Its content includes an examination syllabus for the aural test of ABRSM (the UK) from Grade 1 to Grade 9, AMEB (Australia) and RCM (Canada). Students just need to install it on their iPad or iPhone and can practice their aural skills through interactive methods at home.

Training includes melody singing, rhythm clapping and features recognition, etc. Based on technology, such as digital signal processing, artificial intelligence and cloud computing, the software can "listen" and "understand" what students have sung and clapped. By comparing the students' performance with the correct answer, the software will point out problems, including scale, pitch, rhythm, power, etc. with a real human voice. Once students know their strengths and weaknesses, they just need to practice with the software in mobile phones and tablet computers continuously, improving the students' capability. Eric believes that with this software, those parents without music knowledge can also assist in their children's learning and understand the progress.

