[English Translation]

Brand New Music Learning Style
Vocal Training through Tablet

[eZone School - Hong Kong, 21 Feb 2013] The focus of the new generation learning mode is not solely based on grades. Students also need to get good results in extracurricular activities. As a result, many parents will encourage their kids to learn music. However, the time and cost of learning music is relatively high. Due to this demand, Playnote, a company from Hong Kong, has developed the "AURALBOOK" app that lets students learn music in a new way.

Focusing the Development for ABRSM

Playnote, the developer of AURALBOOK, is a Hong Kong company and also a member of incubatee in the Hong Kong Science and Technology Park. The app is designed for music education. The objective is to help students practice for professional music exams. The app was awarded with the "Gold Award of Best Lifestyle Award of the 2012 HKICTA" and "Merit Award in the eLearning category of the 2012 APICTA," based on its innovative learning method for music education.

Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) is one of the most recognized music examinations in the world. AURALBOOK is based on the grade 1 to grade 8 syllabuses and provides practice for different required skills like melody singing, rhythm clapping, feature listening, etc. Contents and practice are delivered through a tablet computer. The microphone on the tablet computer captures students' singing and clapping. The pitches and clapping are analyzed by artificial intelligence. The artificial intelligence can even distinguish the difference within a semitone and provide comments and markings to students. Besides, students can save the practice result and mark the cloud server so that they can retrieve and understand the result at any time.

Learning Anytime, Anywhere

Eric Yung, founder and CEO of Playnote, is also a musician and teaches at a local university. Eric said AURALBOOK can be downloaded for free. It provides a few questions for students to practice. Students can purchase more questions based on requirements for different grades. The questions provided in AURALBOOK can be used repeatedly. Artificial intelligence can help to judge the students' performance. This allows students to learn anytime, anywhere. It also significantly decreases the required school fee.

Eric also said that this kind of electronic learning cannot substitute the traditional one-on-one teaching by a music teacher. "There is a lot of emotion in musical instrument playing. There are some details of the performance that cannot be judged by a computer or artificial intelligence. AURALBOOK can only provide some mechanical type of training." AURALBOOK will provide a

bigger question database for different examination boards. Other than ABRSM, it also provides questions for the Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB) and the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) of Canada, which further enriches the question database.

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平板機練歌
嶄新音樂學習模式

新一代的學習模式，不單只追求學業成績，
還要能文能武，在課外活動上也要取得佳績。
因此，不少家長也會讓子女學習音樂，不過學習音樂所花的時間及費用均較高；
為針對這個市場，香港企業 PLAYNOTE 製作了《AURALBOOK》應用程式，
為同學帶來另類的音樂學習模式。

法新社圖片

⊕ 創辦人 Eric（右）表示要讓平板機的麥克風收音準確無誤，是開發程式中最困難的項目。

⊕《AURALBOOK》提供嶄新遙距學習模式，曾於多個電子學習及創新科技比賽中奪獎。

⊕ 同學只要一部平板機，即可隨時隨地進行音樂考試練習。

⊕ 即使是半度的差別，人工智能系統亦可準確判斷同學發出的音準及節拍。

⊕ 程式提供多個機械式練習，包括：歌唱音調、拍手節奏、聆聽訓練等。
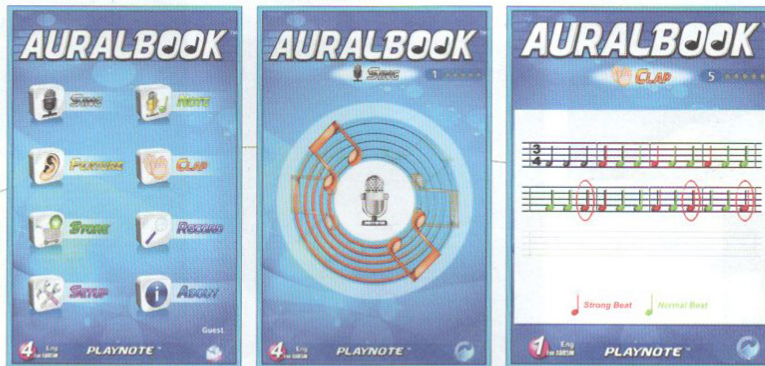
⊕ 程式可即時告知同學的錯誤地方，並可將成績上傳至雲端儲存，方便同學日後作對比。

Strong Beat   Normal Beat

針對 ABRSM 開發

開發《AURALBOOK》的本地企業 PLAYNOTE，為香港科技園「科技創業培育計劃」成員之一。此程式是針對音樂教育的流動應用程式，目的是幫助學習音樂的同學，練習各項專業音樂考試的題目。該應用程式曾獲得「2012 香港資訊及通訊科技獎 — 最佳生活時尚金獎」、「2012 年度亞太資訊及通訊科技獎 — 最佳電子電習優惠獎」，表揚對音樂學習帶來的嶄新模式。

英國皇家音樂院考試 ABRSM（Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music），是全球認受性最高的音樂考試之一，《AURALBOOK》便以其 1 至 8 級的考試作大綱，針對性練習音樂考試中所需的技巧，例如：歌唱音頻、拍子節奏、聆聽音樂等，於平板機中教授內容及提供練習，並以麥克風接收同學的表現，配合人工智能評分系統，分析音準及節拍，即使是半度的差別亦能辨別，為同學提供評分及建議。此外，同學更可將程式中的練習成績，儲存於雲端伺服器之中，讓同學隨時查閱重聽，了解自己的學習進度及水平。

隨時隨地學習

PLAYNOTE 創辦人及行政總裁容志偉（Eric），本身也是一位音樂家，於本地大學任教。Eric 表示《AURALBOOK》應用程式本身是免費下載，內有少量問題可供試用；同學可根據不同程度的考試級別，於程式中購買更多問題庫，《AURALBOOK》的問題庫可以重複使用練習，人工智能系統亦可以作評估，讓同學可隨時隨地學習之餘，也大大節省家長所支付的學費。

不過 Eric 亦坦言，這類電子學習方式，並不能完全取代傳統音樂教師一對一的教授，他表示：「樂器演奏要求投放感情，有些微妙的細節，電腦及智能系統是永遠不能判斷，因此《AURALBOOK》只能提供一些機械式的練習。」此外，《AURALBOOK》未來將會推出更多針對不同專業音樂試的問題庫，現時除 ABRSM 外，亦已涉足澳洲音樂考試委員會及加拿大皇家音樂學院等，令問題庫更為豐富全面。●

⊕ Eric（右）表示，未來會針對更多專業音樂試推出更多問題。左為香港科技園公司企業拓展及科技支援副總裁楊德斌。