

[English Translation]

IT Guy Searches for Music

* * *

[The Sun - Hong Kong, 03 Apr 2013] Technology keeps changing. There are always new things being created and replaced. However, music is forever. People are still listening to Beethoven even after 100 years. Musician and IT professional, Eric Yung loves both technology and music. So, he combined his two passions and developed music education software. He wants to make this change to last forever.

* * *

Using computers and technology to simulate teaching is not a new concept. But many years ago Eric thought of this revolutionary idea. When Eric was still at secondary school, the computer was a completely novel idea. He and his classmates did research into how many people will use the computer as a teaching aid in 2012 and began thinking about how a computer could become a teacher. They won a competition based on this idea. "That was in 1993 and we believed this would happen 17 years later."

Eric kept this idea and dream in his mind. He knew that he would have a business in information technology. He also studied electronic engineering at the university. When Eric studied in his masters program, he started his first company in multimedia technology with his professors and classmates. Even though he had a wealth of knowledge, he did not have experience, especially in management and marketing. However, he was required to manage the company. As a result, he encountered many problems. "On paper, the staff was under my supervision but we had the same knowledge. Everyone looked the same. Why does the staff need to listen to me?"

The failure of the first company allowed Eric to become aware of his own problems. He decided to go back to the university again and study more in law and business management. Then he took up a job in enterprise. In his work, he helped hundreds of engineers to complete projects. "As I can think from the view of the staff, I know what the staff is thinking." He worked for a few years without a problem but he never forgot his dream. He just needed to wait for the chance. In 2010, the first iPad was launched. "After waiting for so many years, the chance came." He decided to make his dream from 17 years ago into a reality.

Eric loves two things: technology and music. He said he is addicted to classical music. He started playing piano in his second year of primary school. Then he learned to sing, compose and conduct an orchestra. "If I was forced to choose between technology and music, I would choose music." He decided to combine his two loves into a music teaching App.

In order to create his IT dream, he put all his efforts into the research and development stage. He developed artificial intelligent software, which would help students to prepare for professional music examinations and play musical instruments. The software needed to recognize the pitch and beat correctly before it could be launched into the market. Along the way, there were a lot of successes and failures. People kept saying, "You don't know whether it will work out or not. You would be better to invest the money in the property market."

After two years without a salary, Eric's product finally passed all the necessary tests and was launched into the market. The company also received a lot of awards. The product is still at the beginning stage. Eric will do research into the increasing popularity of the software. "I will not use the profit to judge whether it is a successful product as I would hope in the future. Any one who wants to learn music will remember this software."

尋樂IT人

「如果要我喺音樂同IT之間
擇其一，我一定揀音樂。」



Eric's profile
 職銜 Playnote limited 創辦人及行政總裁
 學歷 香港科技大學電子工程學士、英國倫敦大學法律學士、香港科技大學電機及電子工程學士、香港科技大學工商管理碩士
 興趣 歌劇、寫作

「科技係不斷變，愈出愈新，但音樂對人嘅影響係永遠，再過多一百年，喺人都仲係聽緊貝多芬。」音樂IT人容志偉 (Eric) 愛科技，更愛音樂，結果他將兩者結合，開發音樂教學應用程式，用變幻成就永恒。

文：陳詠賢 攝：吳啟偉

對現代人來說，以電腦作模擬教學並非甚麼新鮮事，但卻曾是 Eric 的奇幻想像。在他的中學時代，電腦是當時的新事物，他跟其他同學研究二〇一〇年的人如何用電腦教學，幻想電腦可擔當老師，他們感此構思勝出比賽。「嗰時係一九九二年，我哋話十七年後就會做到佢樣嘅。」

Eric 一直把這夢想放於心底，早早認定 IT 為發展路向，大學時更修讀電子工程學。在修讀碩士那年，Eric 首次創業，跟大學教授和同學合夥開設影音科技公司。雖有豐富學識，但欠缺工作經驗，公司如何管理，市場如何運作都不知，卻要挑起公司的管理工作，結果難言接連出現「班員工在職上係我下屬，但我跟嗰啲嘢無咩關係，大家咁高咁大，啱點解要聽我講嘢？」

首次創業經歷挫敗，讓 Eric 發現自身的不足，他決定再進修，增進對法律及工商管理的專業知識，然後走進企業打工。工作中，他曾帶領百多個工程師完成一個項目，「易地而處，我就體會到員工各自有不同說法。」在職場打滾多年，發展一帆風順，但他從未忘掉夢想，一直等待時機。二〇一〇年，全球首部平板電腦面世。

「等咗咁多年，我覺得呢次係時候喇！」他決定要實現十七年前的夢想。

Eric 的人生有兩大至愛，除了科技，就是音樂。他形容自己對古典音樂的沉迷幾近瘋狂，從小一開始學鋼琴，唱歌，作曲以至指揮樂團，一樣皆精，「如果要我喺音樂同 IT 之間，一擇其一，我一定揀音樂。」他決定把 IT 夢實踐於音樂教學，將兩大至愛合二為一，開發音樂教學應用程式。

為了這個音樂 IT 夢，他全情投入研發階段，要打造一個智能程式，輔助用家預備音樂試，甚至學習樂譜。程式要準確認出高低音，快慢拍子方可推出市場，途中經過反覆的試驗和失敗。身邊人勸說：「你都唔知最後得唔得，不如趁唔錢同時開去炒樓啦！」

經歷兩年「有汗出，無糧出」的研發過程，Eric 的產品終通過多項測試，於上年推出市場，更獲取多個獎項。產品的發展仍在起步階段，Eric 下一步將研究如何讓產品普及，「我唔會用嚴謹去衡量成功，因為我想以後要學音樂嘅人，都會識起呢個軟件。」



容志偉將最愛的科技與音樂結合，開發音樂教學應用程式。



● 亞洲智能手機應用博覽會 (mmit cum Award Ceremony)
 ● Eric 在「四方的」的音樂教學應用程式獲獎。(受訪者提供)
 ● Eric 在「四方的」的音樂教學應用程式獲獎。(受訪者提供)
 ● 在論壇上，Eric 向大會唱自己創作的樂曲。

古典樂迷盼再登台

學生時代的 Eric 為音樂瘋狂，早上專注學業，放學後就全心投入音樂世界。他曾經多個音樂團體的活躍份子，當年最香港歌劇團男高音，又與好友自組合唱團，兼顧多個表演，依然樂此不疲。表演前幾個星期，他就要開始預備，由傍晚排練到深夜。

最難忘的是他首個歌劇表演，由全以意大利文演唱，既要唱到連續三個小時的對白，又要上台上地位極高。舞台上，同時感受由表演而來的壓力與興奮。「要用音樂表達喜怒哀樂，再感染觀眾，謝幕一刻，我覺得已經成功挑戰自己。」

當年活躍古典音樂圈，享受舞台上的風光，但今天的 Eric 已趨於平淡。為 IT 事業放下幕前表演的機會，甘於只在台下當觀眾，但他與一眾音樂愛好友許下諾言，希望眾人在六十歲時再唱劇團，延續年少時代的輕狂。



on.cc 鮮短片