



Is technology making our teaching easier or harder?

‘Any teacher who can be replaced by a computer... should be.’ Arthur C. Clarke

Today’s students learn differently from those of ten years ago. Typically they:

- No longer seek information from reference books
- Expect information to be readily available and ideally no more than a handful of mouse clicks away
- Require visual, aural and kinesthetic stimulation
- Are less likely to read long articles, preferring bullet points
- Seek video clips or interactive means to assist in learning

Our ‘time poor’ students are engaged in multiple extra-curricular activities and I’m noticing that they are often unable to solve problems through practice, particularly in scale preparation and learning fingerings.

Technology has changed the way the *net generation* learns and music teachers embracing the technology are having great success using internet resources such as *YouTube*, Online sheet music purchases and various Apps.

Audio or video recordings of almost any piece students are learning can now be easily found on *YouTube*. Teachers can create their own *YouTube* channel and upload their own video clips for students to view during the week. Tech savvy teachers can also set up an *online practice buddy* giving students interactive video clips to support their weekly practice.

Students often find that creating a backing track assists them in analysing chord structure and understanding harmony. Software is readily available to create backing tracks by simply typing in the chord sequence of the piece being studied and selecting the required style. Apps such as *Band-in-a-Box* and *GarageBand* can create professional-sounding backings in minutes. Students often find chord structure analysis very helpful in creating a backing track and understanding harmony.

The *Aural Book* app is helpful for aural training as is *Sight Reading Machine* for sight reading.

Our Technological Revolution has been likened to the Industrial Revolution, moving four times faster. If we take some time to learn and embrace the change music teaching can become fun again and we can keep our students motivated.

You don’t have to be a ‘Tech savvy teacher’ to be successful with technology. Just discuss your needs with a teenager and ask for help. You’ll be amazed at how quickly your resources develop.