

Title of Session: ArtsSites - Variations2: Teaching and Learning Music Online

Moderator: BJ Berquist

Guest Speaker: Mark Notess

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Room: After School Online Room

BJ: Welcome to today's discussion on Variations 2: Teaching and Learning Music Online

BJ: our special guest is Mark Notess. After introductions...

MarkNo bows

BJ: we'll be moving to his office to see a slide presentation that he has prepared

BJ: could you each please introduce yourselves?

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania

SandraS: I'm an English teacher in Alabama

JoryL: Kinder, Bev Hills, CA

MarkNo: software developer and PhD student at Indiana University

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I help teachers use technology in their teaching and learning. I'm in New Jersey

SoniaB joined the room.

BJ: Hi, Sonia. Welcome! We're just doing introductions

SoniaB: Hi Sonia from cadre 7 OMET

DavidWe . o O (Pepperdine)

JeffC: Ed Tech Support and Helpdesk here at Tapped In

BJ: glad you could join us, Sonia. Are you here for the music discussion with Mark Notess?

SoniaB: Just got the announcement in Henry Price's session. Just curious

BJ: cool, Sonia. We'd love to have you stay. We're all going to be moving to Mark's office to see a slide presentation on his project

SoniaB: What is the project?

BJ: when you see Mark leave this room, click on the ONLINE tab to the left of this chat window. Then single click on MarkNo and the door icon at the bottom of the frame

BJ waves bye to Mark

MarkNo leaving

MarkNo left the room.

BJ: Sonia, the project is Variations2: Teaching and learning music online

SoniaB: OK

BJ waits for everyone to go to Mark's office

DavidWe leaves

JoryL left the room.

DavidWe left the room.

SandraS left the room.

SoniaB left the room.

BJ left the room.

Room: Mark Notess' Office

BJ joined the room.

BJ: good job, everyone!

BJ hands the virtual floor over to Mark

MarkNo: thanks, BJ!

BJ . o O (no, David, no mop)

MarkNo: welcome to my treehouse. to get started, click on the "Variations2 Slides" link under my featured items.

MarkNo: I apologize in advance to those of you dialed in over slow connections....

MarkNo: I didn't optimize the slides very well...if I remember I'll tell you which ones to skip!

MarkNo: (there are a lot of images in the slides)

SandraS: Mark, do you want us to simply go through the slide show?

MarkNo: after you click on the link, it should bring up a new browser

DavidWe wonders if he should be using Internet Explorer

SoniaB: I am in

MarkNo: I will talk through the slides, letting you know when to advance

MarkNo: you can advance by clicking next to the slide number at the left of the browser window

DavidWe nods

MarkNo: David, I don't know about other browsers working with this...sorry!

DavidWe: Seems to be working here. I've got the intro slides and the list on the left

BJ . o O (Netscape wasn't happy, but it looks ok)

MarkNo: if you've got the first slide up, please let me know

DavidWe 's got it

BJ: I have the slides up

SandraS: yup

SoniaB: Up

BJ: Jory?

JeffC joined the room.

JoryL: I'm with ya

BJ: Hi, Jeff. You must have been caught in traffice!

MarkNo: while we're waiting (Jeff, click on the Variations2 slide link under featured items)

BJ: Jeff, click on Variations2 Slides under Featured items

JeffC: done

MarkNo: the way I have my windows arranged, I have detached chat long and thin at the bottom and I have the browser with the slides above it...but whatever works for you

BJ . o O (you also might want to detach your chat window if you're having trouble following the text)

MarkNo: anyone NOT ready to go?

BJ: to detach, click on the ACTIONS menu in the top right of the chat window and then highlight detach

MarkNo: ok, I guess I'll start then. my plan is to talk through the slides, leaving time for discussion at the end.

MarkNo: (slide 2)

BJ: I think you have an advanced group here, Mark.

MarkNo: cool...so here's the outline...let's go on to slide 3

MarkNo: just a bit of my background, moving from high tech to higher education

MarkNo: slide 4

MarkNo: a bit about our grant. we have one year left, so we've spent most of the \$3M.

MarkNo: it is a big project with lots of people involved, doing research in various areas.

MarkNo: in addition to heading up the software team, I do usability research for the project

MarkNo: slide 5

MarkNo: if you're interested in software architecture, here's a picture of the various components we're working on

MarkNo: slide 6

MarkNo: I'll quickly go through the "library" aspects, which is a big part of the project but is perhaps less interesting to this group

MarkNo: we've built a digital library system that is optimized for music (not books, like most catalogs)

DavidWe . o O (very cool!)

MarkNo: slide 7 (here's where the big pictures start...sorry!)

MarkNo: slide 7 shows our search window

BJ: I'm not having any problems, Mark

BJ . o O (on dial up)

DavidWe . o O (fuzz for me)

MarkNo: you can see that it is possible to search by composer, performer, conductor, key, etc.--music things!

DavidWe . o O (fuzzy...)

MarkNo: what does the fuzzy mean??

DavidWe: the screen shot of the window, but I can read the text, sorry

MarkNo: (sorry, but I'm new at Tapped In)

MarkNo: oh.

DavidWe smiles

MarkNo: sorry about the fuzz.

BJ . o O (fuzzy is a very technical term)

DavidWe tries his best to be accurate

MarkNo: the search results displayed below show two media types--scores and recordings

MarkNo: slide 8

BJ: this program is amazing, Mark. I'm anxious to see who it's available to

SandraS: me too

DavidWe thinks this is very, very cool

MarkNo: well...it's not generally available yet, for lots of reasons I should cover later...let me speed up the slides

MarkNo: slide 8 is the audio player, where you listen, bookmark, etc.

MarkNo: the audio is streaming audio (uses Quicktime underneath)

MarkNo: slide 9

MarkNo: shows the score viewer--scanned images of scores

MarkNo: the little green shapes near the top are the bookmarks

DavidWe: how many scores are currently in your database?

MarkNo: not many yet -- we'll have about 50 this fall.

BJ: David, Ferdi would love this!

MarkNo: but some are very large, e.g., the entire Beethoven piano sonatas

DavidWe agrees

MarkNo: and those are public domain!

DavidWe: And one can jump from scores to the streaming music of the scores?

MarkNo: wait a bit for that

DavidWe nods

BJ waits patiently

MarkNo: slide 10 shows how we can export the bookmarks to generate a web page

MarkNo: students can click on the links and open Variations2 audio players

MarkNo: slide 11, shows another example of a bookmark-generated (and dressed up) web page for a course assignment

MarkNo: that's my quick summary of library features. on to pedagogy (slide 12)

MarkNo: slide 13 shows a formal analysis assignment from a theory class

MarkNo: the instructor used the bookmarks to demarcate sections, and provided comments on them

MarkNo: again, the links let you navigate the audio

MarkNo: slide 14

MarkNo: shows the bookmark editing window, where you can change names, export them to a web page, etc.

MarkNo: WARNING....slide 15 has a big graphic...may want to skip.

MarkNo: it points out that while bookmarks are nice, they aren't the way people are used to diagramming music.

MarkNo: instead, music student draw "form diagrams" or "bubble diagrams".

MarkNo: skip to slide 17

MarkNo: summarizes the features of our timeline tool.

MarkNo: the picture at the bottom shows what one of our timelines can look like . lots more to come....

MarkNo: slide 18...everyone with me?

SandraS: yup

BJ nods

DavidWe nods

SoniaB: Yes, Mark. This is remarkable. Sorry I have to go. Will I have access to the PP tomorrow, Mark, to go through the slides on my own?

JoryL: yup

BJ . o O (a reminder that this slide show will be here in Mark's office if you want to look at it later)

MarkNo: Yes, Sonia. Bye!

SoniaB: Ta

SoniaB: Bye everyone

BJ waves bye

SandraS waves bye to Sonia

DavidWe: Bye

MarkNo: 18 shows the window for editing timelines...we'll look at a few of the features/concepts on Slide 19

MarkNo: the slider shows you where you are in the listening.

SoniaB left the room (signed off).

MarkNo: you create bubbles by clicking on the "add" button, which creates timepoints, hence bubbles.

MarkNo: you can label and annotate bubbles.

MarkNo: the label is displayed on the bubble

MarkNo: the annotation shows up in the white annotation window below the timeline, if playback is currently in that bubble.

MarkNo: and bubbles can be grouped into higher-level bubbles

MarkNo: let's look at some more pictures.

DavidWe . o O (quick question)

MarkNo: ok

DavidWe: Timeline means?

MarkNo: a time-based diagram of a piece of music

DavidWe . o O (analysis of score?)

DavidWe understands

MarkNo: it is based on audio, not the score

DavidWe nods

DavidWe: Thanks

MarkNo: the slider is like a normal music player slider

MarkNo: on to slide 20

MarkNo: shows some of the flexibility--color, hierarchical annotations

MarkNo: slide 21

MarkNo: shows square (!) bubbles and the ability to color bubbles differently based on similarity

SandraS: incredible program flexibility...very nice

MarkNo: you color them yourself...the computer is too stupid

DavidWe smiles

MarkNo: slide 22...shows a very simple analysis such as could be more appropriate for K-12

BJ will have to tell Mark about the ID ten T error later

DavidWe grins at BJ

MarkNo: non-music theory students

MarkNo: slide 23

MarkNo: here's what you get when you pick a track from the audio player to create a timeline from initially

MarkNo: then you press "play" and start clicking the "add" button. Quite simple.

MarkNo: slide 24

JoryL: So sorry to interrupt, but I must log off. Thanks for the outstanding presentation. Bye

DavidWe: is there any other software out there that attempts to do something like this?

DavidWe waves bye to Jory

MarkNo: by Jory...thanks for stopping by

MarkNo: yes, David. But it's not nearly as good

DavidWe: just curious

MarkNo: or easy

DavidWe smiles

MarkNo: we now have the ability to let people create timelines from local audio (e.g., mp3 on their harddrive)

MarkNo: instead of just using our audio, which we can't freely give away

DavidWe nods

MarkNo: so perhaps within the next year this will actually be useful to anyone who wants to download it.

JoryL left the room (signed off).

MarkNo: 24 shows the web page that you can automatically generate from your timeline

MarkNo: slide 25 shows what one instructor said about it

MarkNo: nice words...

MarkNo: slide 26 shows a new feature, not even released yet

MarkNo: score annotation.

DavidWe: nice comment from the instructor

MarkNo: you can zoom in our out, print, and the annotations track with you

MarkNo meant, "in or out"

MarkNo: lots of annotation tools to use (down left-hand side). Some are music-pedagogy-specific. Like labeling non-chord tones, Roman numeral analysis, etc.

MarkNo: this will be released this fall and used in a pilot project

MarkNo: so that's what we've done so far.

MarkNo: I'd like to finish by describing my crazy ideas for the future

DavidWe listens

MarkNo: slide 27...just read, I guess

MarkNo: slide 28 is what I get excited about enabling

DavidWe assures Mark that BJ, Jeff and I all like point 3

MarkNo: slide 29 is for you visual types

MarkNo: I hope to do my dissertation right in the center of the picture!

MarkNo: slide 30

MarkNo: shows a concept--collaborative timeline creation, listening, analysis

MarkNo: needs application sharing to work (Tapped In needs app sharing too!)

MarkNo: moving to ART, slide 31 ff show a slide identification game

BJ nods

MarkNo: which students could use to study for a test

MarkNo: go to 32

MarkNo: it is a synchronous idea--students type in answers to slide IDs, see others' answers, and discuss differences

MarkNo: online study groups

MarkNo: slide 33 shows the chat/discussion

DavidWe nods and smiles

MarkNo: the difference between this and Tapped In is that you can bring the picture (or music) directly into the discussion

MarkNo: rather than referring to it awkwardly and indirectly.

DavidWe: Yes

MarkNo: slide 34 is the summary of what I'd like to help create

DavidWe knows next to nothing about what's involved with app sharing

MarkNo: there are tools for app sharing. Placeware was good. Microsoft bought them and renamed it LiveMeeting (which I haven't used yet).

JeffC: \$\$\$

MarkNo: over time, \$

MarkNo: but yes

DavidWe . o O (CORBA?)

JeffC: There are cheaper systems out there already... TalkingCommunities... Convoq's ASAP... but this looked like a specific software for music sharing, right?

MarkNo: I don't know the underlying technologies.. I doubt it's CORBA

SandraS: anything in beta for literature?

MarkNo: nothing for literature on this grant

MarkNo: the grant is for music

SandraS: incredible stuff

MarkNo: however, I've interviewed literature people (and used to be one)

MarkNo: and I see a lot of the same needs

DavidWe nods

SandraS: any attention to non-western music -- polyphony, different scales?

MarkNo: read slides 35 and 36 at your leisure. there. I'm done. any questions?

MarkNo: we have some non-western

MarkNo: we need to do more to have our metadata support ethno music, though.

SandraS: I was wondering about that

MarkNo: now, about availability.

DavidWe: I want to know how you ended up working in music with your last name (NOTESs)?

MarkNo: ha

MarkNo: ha

BJ: I think ethno music would be very important

DavidWe smiles

BJ . o O (see...I'm not the only one to see that, Mark)

MarkNo: yes, and we have lots of ethno music in our collection

BryanJ: will this be available to view after the chat is over?

MarkNo: we have a big ethnomusicological video project at IU

SandraS: cool

MarkNo: slides will be available

SandraS: great Folklore dept.

DavidWe: what's the software being developed in (language)?

MarkNo: java

DavidWe nods

MarkNo: runs on Macs & PCs

MarkNo: Variations2 is not generally available yet, due to a couple of reasons

DavidWe: Very cool stuff, Mark

MarkNo: 1) support! we don't have a good system in place yet

MarkNo: 2) intellectual property -- licensing of the music

BryanJ: thanks

MarkNo: to address #2, we have implemented an access control system so that

MarkNo: students off campus, e.g., can only access materials on reserve for classes they're signed up for

MarkNo: so that's a good first step.

MarkNo: So we could give VARIATIONS2 away, but no one could listen to any of the music

SandraS: Mark, I gotta jet. Thank you so much!

SandraS waves bye

MarkNo: but you could still draw timelines of music on your hard-drive

MarkNo waves to Sandra

SandraS left the room (signed off).

MarkNo: other questions?

DavidWe thinks

DavidWe thinks Mark should present this again, at some point

BJ: I really like the visual connection to music

DavidWe agrees

MarkNo: i thought you would!

MarkNo smiles

DavidWe: Mark, did BJ get you to give this presentation?

MarkNo: I've used the timeliner to help me transcribe recorded interviews

MarkNo: it has a lot of applications, I think

BJ: maybe this would be a good festival event for next July?

MarkNo: plus, it's fun

DavidWe nods

DavidWe thinks about more piano lessons

BJ . o O (that would give you more time to work on the project)

MarkNo: maybe by July we can let people install it

DavidWe: You guys have another year of funding?

MarkNo: yep. through September 2005

MarkNo: but we're applying for more so we can get this into production

MarkNo: and keep it there.

DavidWe hopes it continues to be funded

BJ: cool....join the TI Festival group so you'll know when the festival is scheduled

MarkNo: another of my ideas for further work I call "Future Listener Initiative"

DavidWe listens

BJ: oh, that sounds good too

BJ . o O (we need more active listeners)

MarkNo: I want to get lots of good public domain audio so that K-12 could use our stuff and not have to pay

DavidWe: Is there much public domain music?

MarkNo: there will be no jobs for all of IU's great music grads if no one cares to listen to classical music

BJ: K-12 music teachers would eat that up

MarkNo: no, there's not hardly any

BryanJ: well thanks can I keep viewing the slides for a bit?

DavidWe turned the classical music on midway through the presentation

MarkNo: slides will hang here--have at 'em.

BJ: Mark, thanks so much for doing this discussion!

DavidWe: Do you know of Peter Schickele (P.D. Q. Bach), Mark?

MarkNo: yes--he got me started on classical

DavidWe: . o O (and his show, "Schickele Mix" on NPR?)

DavidWe: Really?

MarkNo: we get the show here

MarkNo: I listen sometimes

DavidWe: My folks went to college with him - I grew up going to his concerts. The show tries to do some music analysis and I always enjoy his insights

MarkNo: but then, I'm fairly ignorant of music (unlike some of the people I work with on this project)

DavidWe: Indiana has very good music people

MarkNo: yes. we are going to put some PDQ in Variations2 shortly!

DavidWe: cool!

DavidWe: I'm sure he would be quite interested in the project

MarkNo: I don't suppose he'd put it in the public domain, though.

MarkNo: Do you have a contact with him?

DavidWe: has no idea

BJ: It's amazing what people will do if you just ask

DavidWe: indirectly, I guess...

MarkNo: I know he taught at Eastman for awhile. where is he now?

BJ: . o O (or alternatives that they offer)

DavidWe: I would think he would be quite interested in knowing about Variations2 - just by the nature of his interests.

DavidWe: I believe he lives in New York - only because the program originates in NYC.

MarkNo: he might be interested in my future listeners' initiative

DavidWe: He often goes to Swarthmore College for concerts, etc.

BJ: Time for me to get going...busy day tomorrow.

MarkNo: I'll ask around. if people here aren't too snooty

MarkNo: (at IU, I mean)

DavidWe: waves good night to BJ

DavidWe: smiles

MarkNo: thanks so much, BJ!!!

MarkNo: waves

BJ: smiles. Thank you, Mark!

DavidWe: Thank you both, BJ and Mark!

DavidWe: Fantastic presentation Mark