Making Print Music Accessible to Blind and Low Vision Students

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Outline of Presentation

The means for truly learning, performing, composing and sharing music all depend on written symbols. The ability to read and write music is critical for ALL students who need to progress at the same rate as their peers.

Digital programs are enabling people with a print disability to have better access to the written music score.

This paper will present initiatives in music education such as:

♫ a new braille music curriculum for Primary students
♫ the production of Modified Staff Notation (MSN) using Sibelius 7 for students who require clear print music
Music Manuals / Texts

♫ Mostly for those who want to transcribe braille music

♫ Not for those who need to learn how to read the code
## Grade 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concepts Semester 2</th>
<th>Braille</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crotchet 🌟</td>
<td>F 🌟 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quaver 🌟 = 🌟</td>
<td>🌟 🌟 F 🌟 🌟 🌟 🌟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High/low octave</td>
<td>🌟 🌟 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>minor 3(^{rd}) - m3(^{rd}) - m#3</td>
<td>5(^{th}) Octave 🌟 🌟 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s m</td>
<td>4(^{th}) Octave 🌟 🌟 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m3(^{rd}) = 🌟 🌟 🌟 🌟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>s 🌟 m 🌟</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes
- 🌟 represents the symbol for a crotchet.
- 🌟 🌟 F 🌟 🌟 🌟 🌟 represents the symbol for a quaver.
- 🌟 🌟 represents the symbol for high/low octave.
- 🌟 🌟 🌟 🌟 🌟 🌟 represents the symbol for minor 3\(^{rd}\) - m3\(^{rd}\) - m\#3.
- s m represents the symbols for s and m.
The Music Braille Cell

## Pitch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●●</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Rhythm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●●</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The Braille cell uses dots to represent musical notes and rhythms.
- Each row represents a different pitch or rhythm pattern.
The “One-Out” Myth

odied 64 patterns available (include no dots)

d e f g h i j d

59 patterns  323 combinations of symbols
Peculiar to the Braille Code

- Double bar sign
- Slur / tie
- Braille repeats
- Octave Signs - rules
- Vocal Music
- Clef Signs
Modified Staff Notation

♫ Technology – photocopier – A3

♫ iPad – easy Hugh Sung ‘How to Create Giant Notes iPad Sheet Music’ – 7 pieces of software – quick and dirty

♫ Print text vs Music Notation

Checklist
Music fonts

With spirit $\frac{3}{4} = 100$

In a circle slide to left and don't be slow. To the right we slide again as back we go.

With Spirit $\frac{3}{4} = 100$

In a circle slide to left and don't be slow. To the right we slide again as back we go.

With spirit $\frac{3}{4} = 100$

In a circle slide to left and don't be slow. To the right we slide again as back we go.

With Spirit $\frac{3}{4} = 100$

In a circle slide to left and don't be slow. To the right we slide again as back we go.
Hunt the Note

Using Sibelius - Change

🎵 Lines – thicker
🎵 Colour
   🎵 background
   🎵 notes – stems (all up/down, on r/l)
🎵 Editing (fingering, dynamics,)
🎵 Lyrics
Novello edition of Handel’s “Messiah”

Alto part of the ‘Amen Chorus’.

Modified Stave Notation produced using ‘Sibelius’.
Sonatina in F
Allegro assai $\frac{\text{♩}}{} = 88-92$
Pro Forma for Chloe

- Make into landscape
- Staff change from 7 to 10
- Beams 0.5 to 0.7 thick
- Stems 0.1 to 0.2 thick
- Leger lines 0.16 to 0.25 thick
- Bar lines 0.16 to 0.2 thick
- Expressions – Arial Bold
- Tempo markings - Arial Bold
- Move systems closer together
- Alter length to make similar bars approximately the same size.
The lime lighter

Music-Reading Solution for People with Low Vision
Thank you for listening

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