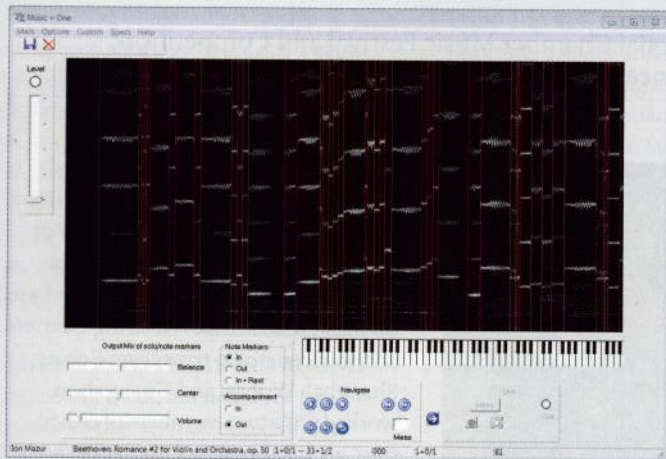


PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

A new accompaniment program responds to your performance



SOFTWARE Practising sonatas or concertos with a fixed recorded accompaniment can be frustrating for the soloist. But now, after 20 years of development, oboist-turned-scientist Christopher Raphael has created Music + One, an accompaniment program that is designed to respond to and follow the player using specialist technology. The software is suitable for use with a standard inbuilt computer microphone.

A new note or change in tempo by the soloist prompts the program to revise its prediction of the timing, and it changes the audio playback of the next accompanying note accordingly. As an optional setting, the program can 'learn', improving its anticipation of the soloist's performance for future rehearsals.

Raphael's initial interest in the concept was piqued shortly after he finished a PhD in applied mathematics at Brown University, Rhode Island: 'Having learnt about speech recognition during my studies, I could see that these ideas could also be applied to music. I wrote a program that could find a match between a musical score and an audio performance.' The project moved on when he undertook a post-doctorate study in statistics: 'I realised that the tools I had already built to follow a performance could also be used to accompany one. I put together my first fledgling system to see if the idea was feasible. The process required careful statistical modelling, programming and many years of effort. The result is something that feels like a real orchestra and it helps one understand the entire piece rather than just the solo part, and to become immersed in the musical moment.'

The software is sold alone and a wide range of repertoire for violin, cello and viola can be bought separately.

Music + One software \$99.99; additional concerto accompaniments \$39.99
email chrisraphael@gmail.com
web <http://music-plus-one.com/>

Just for basses

APP Designed for teachers and players, this double bass-themed app displays scales and arpeggios complete with fingerings, as well as technical exercises. The app's online shop also offers strings, rosin and music.

iDouble Bass App \$2.99
email micahbhoward@me.com
web www.idoublebass.com



Celebratory strings



CELLO STRING

To mark its 55th anniversary, Jargar Strings has released the Superior cello A string, a further development of its Special cello A string. The Superior has been designed to increase both tonal

warmth and power. It is available in forte, medium and dolce.

Superior cello A string from Jargar Strings appr. £36
email jargar@jargar-strings.com
web www.jargar-strings.com

Stand and deliver

IPAD STAND This new iPad 2 stand is designed for musicians to use in rehearsal, concert or at home. The frame fits around the iPad and can be securely clamped to a pole or tube up to 30mm in diameter. A pivoting device allows users to adjust the stand to the desired angle and it can be flipped between horizontal and vertical positions.

iPad 2 stand from König & Meyer £47.99
email mw@k-m.de
web www.k-m.de/en

