ATMI
ASSOCIATION FOR TECHNOLOGY IN MUSIC INSTRUCTION

Where Music Technology and Education Connect

Semester End Load Lighteners

* Take a load off with a crossword or word search puzzle.

Share Your Achievements

* We invite you to keep the community informed about your latest accomplishments. Whether you have groundbreaking research starting, awards won, or exciting news to share, let us know! Your contributions make our community stronger.

* Connect with us by emailing the details to the newsletter editor at dgoot@iu.edu, and you may find your achievements published in the next newsletter. We look forward to celebrating your successes and keeping our community vibrant!

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWER KEY

ACROSS

2. Patch
5. Bandlab
6. Codec
7. MIDI
8. Logic

DOWN

1. OSC
3. Audacity
4. Ableton

WHAT WE LEARNED THIS YEAR...
...WITHOUT REALIZING IT

By Dana Kemack Goot

As another academic year begins to wind down, we're all a little tired, a little wiser, and maybe still wondering how we managed to pivot, adapt, and innovate. But if we take a moment to reflect, it becomes clear: we didn't just teach music. We explored, experimented, and, often without realizing it, learned a great deal ourselves.

This year, technology wasn't just a tool in our classrooms - it became a co-teacher. Whether we were introducing students to BandLab, sequencing grooves in Soundtrap, or troubleshooting a last-minute latency issue during a real-time jam session, we were resilient. And in return, our students showed us creativity, adaptability, and ways to make music we hadn't anticipated.

We learned that students don't need the latest gear to make something beautiful. They need permission to try, tools that are accessible, and the chance to be heard. Some of our most rewarding moments may have come from low-stakes beat-making assignments, collaborative remote projects, or the simple joy of a student discovering they could compose a four-part chorale using only a Chromebook and headphones.

In our own practice, we started to let go of perfection in favor of possibility. We leaned into asynchronous feedback, found new ways to scaffold production projects, and discovered that our tech-savvy students sometimes know more about DAW shortcuts than we do. We learned that mentorship doesn't always mean having the answers, but knowing when to say, "Let's figure it out together."

We also learned to listen to how students experience music technology. For some, it's a new creative playground. For many, it's an invitation to connect their own musical language to something bigger. This year, we found that connection matters just as much as content—and that community is built not only through ensemble work, but through shared experimentation. In many ways, we've begun to emulate the kind of collaborative learning described by Lave and Wenger's Communities of Practice—where knowledge is co-constructed through participation, not just instruction.

Looking ahead to summer, there's an opportunity to rest and reset. Not reset in the sense of clearing the calendar, but in reclaiming a bit of our creative selves—the part that enjoys learning something new just for fun, or revisiting a piece of software not as an assignment, but as exploration. Whether you dive into a new plug-in, map out a fall course revision, or simply let yourself daydream, know that the small sparks you nurture now may ignite next year's most meaningful moments.

So as you log off and decompress, remember: this year, you taught, you adapted, and you grew—and you likely learned more than you taught.

Hidden Words in Technology for Music Education

Audio   Automation   Compression

Equalizer   Headphones   Interface

Latency   Metronome   Microphone

Notation   Pedagogy   Plugins

Remix   Sequencer   Streaming

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H G G R E H Q S J R T N G J F
Q E N P E A E S G E L O M C Q
I Z A I G M L B Q C S I E T O
P W L D M C I G A N L T S D X
Z G Q Z P A L X A E A A I A E
N N A Z S H E H N U T M X L M
I G J R F I O R R Q E O S F N
P L U G I N S N T E N T U O Y
I N T E R F A C E S C U T G I
E M O N O R T E M S Y A O X O
M I C R O P H O N E T G N I K
E Q U A L I Z E R I A B D O D
J N K U G C J Z O D D U D Q W
F M S M U Q I N E O A G N Z M
Q R O S S E R P M O C L Q C G
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Music Tech Crossword: Unplugged & Recharged
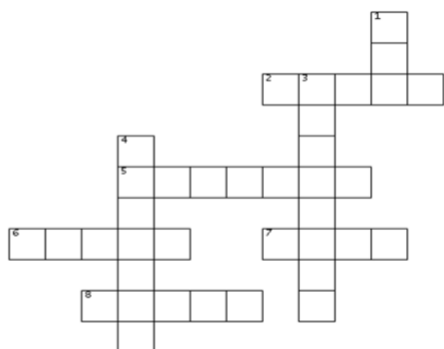
ACROSS
2. Preset or sound configuration in a synthesizer
5. Free online DAW featured in this year's Tech Tip
6. Program that compresses and decompresses digital audio
7. Synthesizer control protocol
8. Popular DAW used in film scoring

DOWN
1. Sound unit in synthesis
3. Open-source audio editor
4. Popular DAW used for live performance and electronic music

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