INSTRUCTIONAL SOFTWARE REVIEW

Reviewers' Name: Andre Clark

1. **CITATION AND GENERAL INFORMATION**
   - Title of Software: Music Prodigy
   - Author: Music Prodigy, Inc
   - Publisher (provide a link to the web site if possible)
     - Music Prodigy, Inc
     - http://musicprodigy.com
   - Copyright Date 2015
   - Platform (Macintosh, Wintel, iOS, Android)
     - HTML5 Browser on any platform (Win/Mac)
     - iOS
     - Android
   - Peripherals (keyboards, microphones, etc.) needed or that can be used with the software
     - Need a microphone on computer or use the installed microphone on iOS or Android device
   - Grade/Age (Early Childhood Early Elementary, Late Elementary, Junior HS/Middle School, High School, Adult)
     - Elementary - College
   - Type of Class (e.g., General Music, Band, Orchestra, Choir, Theory, History, etc.)
     - Quiz: general music, ensemble based classes
     - Red Note/Green Note: ensemble classes that assess individual instruments or vocalists

2. **TEACHER SUPPORT**
   - Documentation (Is there a user manual or is information available online?)
     - Getting started plans available online, including tips and tricks, classroom setup guidance, and advice for upload of Finale (MusicXML) files
     - http://www.musicprodigy.com/support/
   - Lesson plans
     - Not provided, but the intent of the software is to add performance or quiz based assessment data
   - Instructional strategies
     - Enables instructors to provide activities relating to practice, by providing a SmartMusic-style set of content
     - Assessment of performance, using MusicXML uploads to define the musical material assessed
     - Quiz function has test question banks using prompts created by Texas MEA and other professional organizations, provides benchmarking capabilities

3. **INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT**
   - Specific Musical Content
     - The marketplace contains two primary libraries, Core and Subscription. Currently there are 1761 titles in the Core package, and 4108 titles in the Subscription library. The titles span choral and instrumental music, as well as instrumental methods books.
   - Music or technology standards that could be addressed through this software
     - Performance assessment standards can be measured, including rhythmic and pitch accuracy at a defined tempo
     - The quiz function can be used to assess content knowledge, using question banks developed by various professional music and music education sources, such as TMEA, TMAC, and NAfME

4. **INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN AND PEDAGOGICAL SOUNDNESS**

   - Are the learning approaches utilized appropriate for the developmental level of the students?
     - This program is fairly intuitive, especially in the Quiz portion. Students as young as 3rd Grade should have no difficulty with the operation of the program, especially if the login information is provided to the student. The program is not tied to a specific platform, so users of tablets, phones, or computers have essentially the same experience. This leverages existing personal technologies owned by the student and encourages practice or assessments without being tied to a practice room or a fixed device. As the content can also be teacher created, the import of tailored practice material to the development level of the students.
   - Are instructions and feedback (text, audio, or video-based) within the program clear or might they be confusing to students? If text instructions or feedback is used, is it at the reading level of the students?
     - The readability component is related to the question bank utilized, and varies by student grade level. Instructors can select which questions are included, so as the exams are created, poorly worded questions can be eliminated from consideration.
   - What is the quality of the program's interface? Is it cluttered? Is there anything about it that might be distracting? Are fonts large enough to be easily read? What is the quality of graphics, audio, and video that are used? Does the interface serve to motivate the user?
     - The interface is rather simple, using rather easily understood buttons. On touch devices, scrolling through exercises seems rather uncomplicated.
     - Most all functions are available directly from the home screen or the primary menu, located on the upper left corner as a drop-down list of choices.
   - Program Structure?
     - Tutorial – online for instructors
     - Practice – can be a component of the assessment, with percentage correct or tempo barriers that must be achieved prior to submitting the activity for grading
     - Instructional Game – not really a portion of this title
     - Creativity – not really a portion of this title

- o Combination or Other (explain)
    - ▪ The program design is developed for assessment of two key items:
        - • A Quiz feature with highly developed sets of potential questions
        - • A red note/green note performance/sight-reading assessment tool
- • Sequence of Materials (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)? - Fair
- • Pace of Instruction (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)? - Fair
- • Quality of Interaction (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)? - Excellent - intuitive
- • Motivation for Students (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)? - Good

5. **RECORD KEEPING**
- • Is there an assessment component?
    - o This is the primary function of the program, assessing through quiz feature or by identifying correct pitch/rhythm on performed work or sight reading prompt.
- • Does it track student progress and achievement?
    - o Student achievement is possible by class, and also through tracking each individual student over multiple attempts, which is helpful for making the case for a student using this title as a formative assessment or practice aid.

6. **OVERALL EVALUATION**
- • Text summary
    - o Music Prodigy is a very robust music assessment tool for teachers seeking to evaluate increases in sight-reading ability or performance accuracy of individual students over time. Additionally, the Quiz component of the program allows schools to provide benchmark data, with subscriptions that allow for an annual pre-test/post-test set of evaluations.
- • Rating -- 1 to 4 stars (* poor, ** fair, *** good, **** excellent)
    - o ****

7. **REVIEWERS NAME AND DATE OF REVIEW** (XX/XX/201X)

To complete your review

Choose an *instructional* software application (commercial, shareware, open-source or freeware for Macintosh, Wintel, iOS, or Android platforms). Review the software using the criteria above. Please use the headings provided in your review. You may use bullet points (as you see in the criteria), however be sure to use complete sentences in describing the requested information.