

### Introduction

The SessionPlayer from PlayWithTheBand.com is an application first conceived by Producer/ Engineer Mark Flannery (U2 – Unforgettable Fire, Def Leppard - Hysteria, Depeche Mode – Violator). Flannery, who now lectures university students in arrangement of popular music, discovered that many students struggle with being able to deconstruct song arrangements into their component instrumental parts. This listening skill is key to develop the musician and producer's ability to understand the roles of instruments and how all the parts fit together. This in turn leads to the musician to be able to develop the skills to write creative parts for their own projects.

"I discovered when I played stereo mixes of songs to the students that they found it very difficult to hear past the overall sound (passive listening) and delve deeper into being able to clearly identify each individual part (acute listening) which is a key skill for musicians and producers"

"I tried various ideas out to help with this problem, but it was only when I used multitrack recordings of songs, where I was able to isolate each instrument that the students were able to easily hear what was going on"

"For 25 years I had being working in recording studios everyday with the luxury of being able to manipulate each instrument and vocal part to my heart's content, so with my partners we set about creating The SessionPlayer, to make professionally recorded multitracks available to all in a simple to use application"

Currently The SessionPlayer from PlayWithTheBand.com has a library of over **530 songs** in multitrack format with more being added all the time. These are professionally recorded covers of hit songs from various decades. Users can isolate any track, change volume, pan, loop sections, save the mix, create set lists of songs, play along, slow down, change key and develop their instrumental skills by playing along and practicing parts. Users can even import their own stems into the SessionPlayer and many use it live instead of traditional backing tracks.

While the Session Player was conceived for use in higher education, it's a very simple tool which has been tested with great results for students at all levels including pre-school and for children with learning difficulties.

Try the SessionPlayer for free at



# **Key Features**

Learning, Practicing & Teaching

- Choose from an Extensive Library of Songs
- Download Songs in Multi-Track format
- Arrange and Re-arrange the Parts to suit your Learning and Practising needs
- Change Key, Change Tempo, Loop Sections





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### **Free Trial For Schools**

There are 2 tracks which can be used for free.

- STEP 1 Register at www.playwiththeband.com/education-signup/
- STEP 2 Download the Session Player
- STEP 3 Open the Player and the 2 Free Songs will automatically download
- STEP 4 Select PLAYER from the menu on the left and the 2 Songs will appear in the Setlist
- STEP 5 Select a Song and Click BAND so that all the separate parts of the song are visible.

Now you can experiment with the functionality. It's very simple. For a full review of the features click HELP.

#### The 2 free tracks are:

- · "Happy" as recorded by Pharrell Williams
- · "Every Breath You Take" as recorded by The Police

#### **HAPPY**

Released in 2013, "Happy" was a major international hit, reaching No 1 in the UK, US and 22 other countries. In September 2014 it became the most downloaded song of all time in the UK.

Suggestion: Divide the class into 2 groups and have group 1 learn the lead vocal with the backing vocals muted or turned down very low. Group 2 can then learn the backing vocals with the lead vocal muted. Then bring the 2 groups together and perform with the recorded vocals low in the mix. Finally turn the recorded vocals off to reveal a flawless performance from the class!

If you want to take it a stage further get small groups to sing the instrumental parts individually by listening to their chosen instrument in isolation and learning it by ear e.g. the bass line or drum part. Then get everyone back together to sing their parts as an ensemble.

#### **EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE**

A huge worldwide hit and a classic that is still used extensively in film and TV today. The simple construction and easy pace makes it ideal for demonstrating how song parts fit together. It's also a great example of the use of the arpeggio – ubiquitous across all genres of music.

And the lyrics make for an interesting discussion. Is this just a simple love song or is there something more Orwellian going on?





### **Schools**

**Available for.** PC, Mac, iPad

Schools Licence: £100 + VAT per Academic Year

Student Discounts: 10% with Voucher Code



## **Testimonial**

• "We love the Session Player. And it's very popular with the students. They come to lessons fully prepared which means classroom time is far more productive. And the more we get into it the more ways we find to use it."

Adam Bushell: College Principal, The British Institute of Modern Music



www.playwiththeband.com/education