

NYSSMA Technology Committee  
Student Electronic Music Showcase

Dear Fellow Music Educator:

We would like to share a brief thought with you about how technology and creativity can be linked - for your class, your school, your district and the state.

Since 1996, the NYSSMA Technology Committee has presented a Student Electronic Music Composition Showcase. It has become a featured concert at the Annual All-State Conference. A “call for compositions” for this showcase appears monthly in School Music News. A history of the concert can be found in the NYSSMA website under ***Technology In Music Education***. For detailed information and musical examples, open the link ***The NYSSMA Electronic Music Composition Showcase***. Consider the value of this experience to you and to your music education career.

Suggesting the program twenty years ago, we realized that a fundamental method of measuring the effectiveness of the available technology would be to encourage original student composition. Today, we are in an era of ever-growing technology, readily available information, and interactive feedback. As teachers, exploring original compositions as a development and encouragement of creativity must be a major part of our teaching process. The tools are in our hands and in the hands (and ears) of our students.

Knowledge and applications of today’s technology must be considered the newest element of Music Theory. The harmonic and contrapuntal melodic skills we have all learned are those that were developed through the study of seventeenth and eighteenth century styles and brought into practice during the nineteenth century as Music Theory. It soon developed as the fundamental tool of music education. The twentieth century saw performance techniques and expanded harmonies and counterpoint added to Music Theory. When teaching Music History, Styles and Techniques I always tell my students that the invention of the pianoforte was the greatest single technology to affect music in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and that MIDI was the greatest single music technology of the twentieth!

It is now up to us to add to Music Theory and History, the study of today’s electronic technologies (digital and analog). As educators, we are obligated to teach these through encouraging student composition - the creative application!

**Herbert A. Deutsch**

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