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Harmonizing Tradition and Technology: Exploring the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Applied Music Instruction

Elizabeth Blanton Momand
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Demonstration (25 minutes)

ABSTRACT

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in applied music lessons offers transformative opportunities for enhancing teaching and learning in university music programs. While AI-powered tools have been a standard resource for music instruction for nearly 20 years, the further advancement of AI technology allows for real-time feedback on pitch, rhythm, and dynamics, enabling students to refine their technique and musicality outside of traditional lesson settings. These programs can analyze performances with precision, offering students a deeper understanding of their progress while reducing repetitive tasks for instructors, such as assessing basic technical exercises. For faculty, AI fosters more efficient lesson planning and assessment, freeing time to focus on interpretative artistry and advanced repertoire. By automating the analysis of practice data, platforms like Modacity and Practicing Musician provide instructors with insights into practice patterns, allowing for personalized pedagogical strategies tailored to each student's needs. By incorporating AI, applied music lessons can embrace a hybrid model, blending traditional teaching methods with innovative technologies to prepare students for the evolving landscape of professional musicianship. Through case studies and research-based insights, this session aims to illustrate how AI can enhance both the pedagogical process and student outcomes, fostering a more engaging, effective, and inclusive educational environment for 21st-century music students.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER

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Elizabeth Momand is a Professor of Music at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith where she directs the Opera & Musical Theatre Workshop and teaches voice. She received the BM and MM degrees in Vocal Performance from Mississippi College and completed her DMA degree in Vocal Performance at The University of Texas at Austin. Including among the many oratorio roles Dr. Momand has performed with orchestra are Messiah (Handel), Magnificat (Bach), C Minor Mass (Mozart), Requiem (Mozart), The Creation (Haydn), and Carmina Burana (Orff). Dr. Momand is an active researcher on the music of women composers and has presented her peer-reviewed work at regional, national, and international levels of prestigious professional organizations. Dr. Momand has been recognized for her work both as an educator and scholar. Among the honors she has received are the 2021 Lucille Speakman Legacy Endowment Research Award, the 2020 Lucille Speakman Master Teacher Award, a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship for study in India, a scholarship to Johannes Gutenberg Universität in Mainz, Germany, and a fellowship for travel and study in former East Germany. Dr. Momand has served in many leadership positions in the College Music Society and the Arkansas chapter of NATS. She currently serves as an accreditation visitor for the National Association of Schools of Music.