

## **Learning World Music: O-Generator: World Music**

by  
William R. Higgins  
Messiah College  
Grantham, PA.

In the previous issue of the PMEA News, we reviewed the composition software “O-Generator” from Sibelius. Sibelius has extended this creative product to introduce and teach African and Latin American musical styles.

### **O-Generator: World Music**

**Published By:** Sibelius Software

[http://www.sibelius.com/products/o-generator/world\\_music.html](http://www.sibelius.com/products/o-generator/world_music.html)

### **Hardware requirements:**

For Windows 98 and later

For Macintosh OSX 10.2.8 or Later

**Cost:** Single Computer: \$79.00  
5 User Lab Pack: \$345.00

**Pennsylvania Distributor:** J.W. Pepper - (<http://www.jwpepper.com>) (1-800-345-6296)

**World Distributor:** Bassistry Multimedia (<http://www.o-music.tv>) (prices in British pounds)

**Intended Audience:** middle school and high school general music (Grades 5 to 12).

**Stated Purpose:** “*O-Generator: World Music* provides teachers with an engaging and interactive way to teach this area of the music curriculum. It is designed around the requirements of the curriculum and follows clear, progressive lesson plans. The “O-Generator” programs are designed to run on an interactive white board for whole class teaching as well as individual computers. The software provides step-by-step exercises to teach students to play African and Latin American rhythms utilizing the computer and school percussion instruments. A voice-over guides students through exercises and videos show students exactly how to play each instrument.”

**Presentation:** *O-Generator: World Music* uses a single, circular screen representing a bar of music onto which students place their own beats, rhythms and melodies. The program uses African and Latin instruments and musical styles to excite students and let them compose music in these genre.

**The program is divided into two parts:**

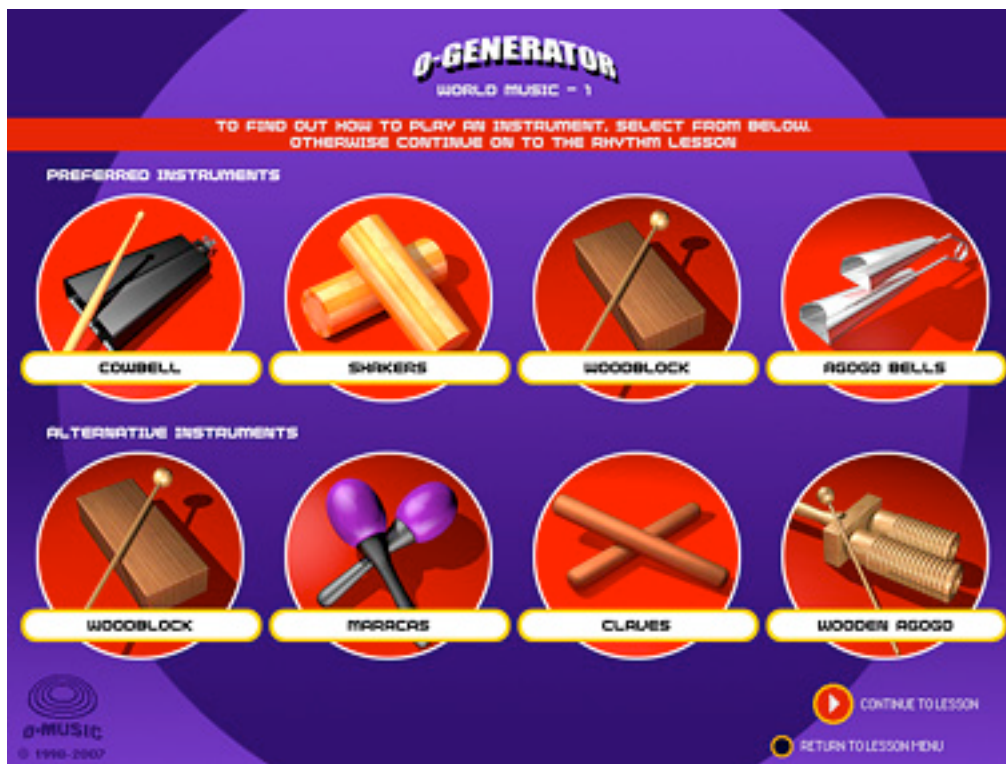
**Learn World Music** explores Latin and African music utilizing a step-by-step audio teaching guide. There is a section on creating rhythm patterns accompanied by instrument demonstration videos. Performances can be recorded as audio files. There are built-in lesson quizzes and a library of Latin/African songs. The lessons include: (1) African & Latin drumming; (2) African voices; (3) Soukous; (4) 3/2 Clave rhythm - Latin clave; (5) Samba; (6) African chords; and (7) Salsa.

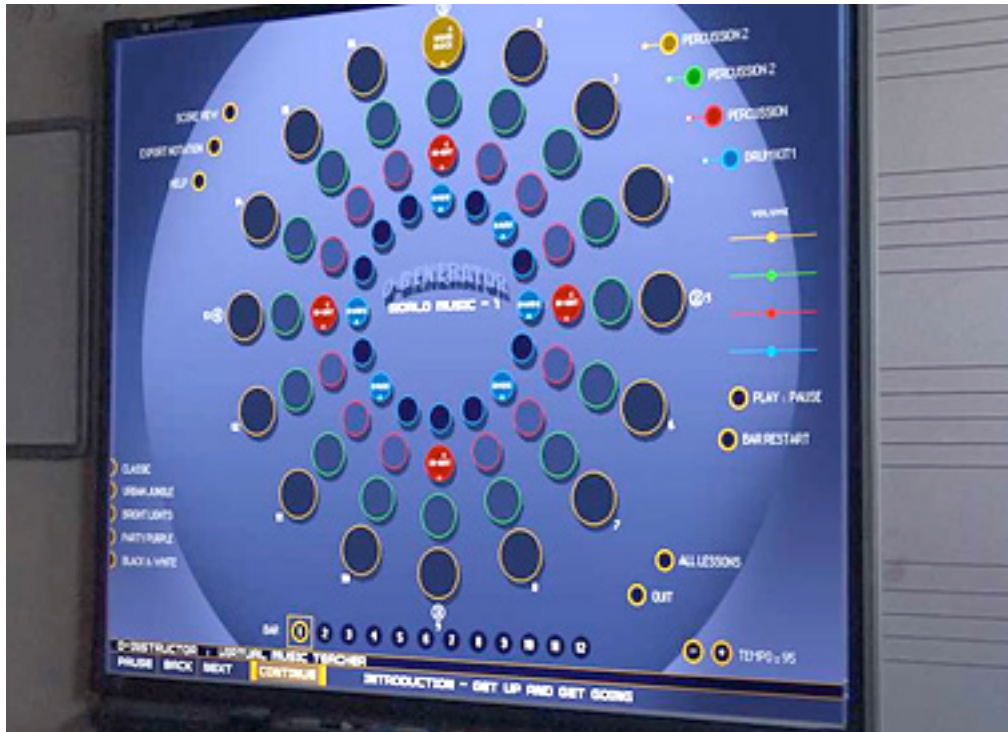
**Play World Rhythms** is a 'live' percussive experience in which students learn to play Latin and African rhythms. A step-by-step audio teaching guide and instrument demonstration videos assist students in the learning process. The rhythm lessons include: (1) Warm-up exercises; (2) Latin warm up exercises; (3) 3/2 Clave rhythm - Soukous; (4) Soukous soundtrack; (5) Call & Response; (6) Agogo - listen & respond; (7) Samba I - agogo rhythm; (8) Samba soundtrack; (9) Samba II; (10) Ashiko - African rhythm; (11) Fanga - African rhythm.

**Try Before You Buy:** The website provides the opportunity to watch a movie demonstrating the product and to use *O-Generator: World Music* to compose a Samba. Go to: [http://www.sibelius.com/products/o-generator/world\\_music.html](http://www.sibelius.com/products/o-generator/world_music.html)

**The Sibelius Website:** The Sibelius website is not particularly user friendly. The “Help” search engine is only for product assistance. *O-Generator World Music* does not appear under “Products” or “Sibelius Education”. To find *O-Generator World Music* from the main page, you must click on “Site Map” at the very bottom of the main page. This will take you to a list of products. From the site map, go to O-Generator. On the O-Generator page there is a link to the “New” O-Generator: World Music. An alternative approach is to use the URL at the top of this article; it will take you directly to the *O-Generator World Music* page.

**Pros:** *O-Generator: World Music*, like its predecessor, is excellent software. The program is easy to understand and use. The single screen design helps in learning the program quickly. The African and Latin musical styles appeal to middle/high school students. The video and audio instruction and lesson guides are excellent. The program is particularly useful in classrooms with interactive whiteboards such as the Smart Board™. **Cons:** The website does not provide the price of the software. How to buy information is hidden on the “site map page”. The “Buy Now” button goes to an unrelated product page. Although the software is of superb quality, the price is expensive for middle/high schools.







breaks  
&  
beats

grunge

# ***O-GENERATOR***

PLAYING  
WORLD  
RHYTHMS

techno jazz

pop dance hip hop

african bhangra

salsa

# CALL & RESPONSE

## PLAYING LESSON



### Teaching Objectives

- To learn to play with accompanying rhythms
- To understand how rhythms work together
- To understand how rhythms play different parts, at different times

### Resources

- Group 1** Claves or Woodblocks  
**Group 2** Claves or Woodblocks,  
Tambourines, Bongo's



### Evidence

By the end of the lesson:

- Learnt to play call & response rhythms
- Developed their aural skills
- Understand how rhythms change depending on where you play in the bar (measure)

### Teaching Steps

1. Students should be in front of projector screen
2. Select Lesson 5
3. Split class into 2 groups
4. Hand out percussion
5. Click on 'Continue' button to conduct the lesson

