

O-Generator

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This is great – a comprehensive music-composition system that provides clear and structured music lessons that even our tone-deaf team could get to grips with.

We should point out that this package is intended for presentation by a music teacher, with students following along on their own computer screens. However, such is the quality of the instruction provided by O-Generator's Virtual Music Teacher, that we feel many students could get along with the application just fine without external guidance.

If you'll pardon us a pun, O-Generator revolves around a ring-shaped sound-

generation system, on which students can plot bass, percussion and drum sounds, among other musical elements and timing controls. Although the O-Generator can be simply played with, it includes an extensive

collection of structured lessons that cover, among much else, rhythm, melody, harmony and arrangement.

Nor does it assume that students are likely to be content learning classical styles – dance, rock, and drum

'n'bass are all options for inspired young musicians to explore. There are a total of nine lessons, but each is subdivided into further categories. The final lesson encourages students to rap along to a backing track, allowing the tempo to be tweaked to fit the rapper's pace and style.

O-Generator is a great package that we think could help improve existing musical ability. And so useful and interesting are the software's lessons that those without musical bones are likely to remain enthralled.

A demo version can be downloaded from www.computeractive.co.uk/2163214.

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Contact Sibelius
Tel 0800 458 3111
Info www.sibelius.com
Overall ★★★★★
Price £81