

# Teaching and rehearsing anywhere with Newzik

Even before COVID, an increasingly busy world placed high demands on teachers and conductors. Students with heavy academic and musical workloads. Educators and students with lots of opportunities to play, teach, learn, and compose. Playing, collaborating, performing, streaming, and composing online. Now in the pandemic, things are even more complicated of course. How do we rehearse and conduct our ensembles? If we are not in the same place as our musicians, how do we collaborate?

Dr. Lee Whitmore, a strategic advisory for music education, spoke with Dr. Jody L. Kerchner of Oberlin College and Conservatory, and composer Pedro Osuna, a graduate of Berklee College of Music, about the benefits of collaborating online to prepare ensembles, rehearse and teach, using Newzik.

## Preparing student musicians for rehearsals remotely: a challenge for conductors

There is a lot of music learning, rehearsing, practicing, and performing going on during the Coronavirus pandemic. Campuses and conservatories keep teaching, and students are still engaged - just not involved in ways we traditionally expect. This past fall in two conversations Dr. Whitmore discussed how established conductors, ensemble directors, and educators adapt to the new normal.



**“When occasions to rehearse with a conductor are limited, there is only so much musical information you can digest before going on stage...”**

**Dr. Lee Whitmore, music education thought-leader**

Before COVID, there were many challenges for rehearsing and conducting when, as a director and conductor, you cannot consistently be with your student musicians leading up to a performance. For example, Dr. Whitmore recalls his public school music-making career in rural Bangor, PA, where he played piano, trombone, and euphonium. During high school, Lee participated in county and regional Pennsylvania Music Educator Association (PMEA) auditions and festivals and was honored to march with the Pennsylvania All-State Lions Marching Band for the opening of the 1982 Knoxville, TN World’s Fair.

*“In the 80s, before the Internet, web devices, email, and apps, there were always a lot anxiety leading up to rehearsals and performances for students and teachers alike. Suppose you only meet and prepare with a conductor over a couple of days as a student performer. In that case, there is only so much information you can digest before going on stage for a concert that was also being recorded”,* Dr. Whitmore shared.

One of Dr. Whitmore’s undergraduate colleagues, Dr. Jody L. Kerchner, Oberlin College and Conservatory’s director for the Division of Pedagogy, Advocacy, and Community Engagement, has consistently conducted state

and regional vocal ensembles over her career. He called her to discuss how she has approached the limitations of time-limited, special conducting experiences with students.

Jody's personal experiences as a music educator and conductor included many hours of preparation. She notes that she would prepare scores with markups and annotations, notes, share recordings using various technology platforms, and more. All of these approaches made a difference and enhanced the experiences for her student performers. That said, given her busy schedule on and off-campus, Dr. Kerchner's time commitment to finding complementary technologies for music and distanced learning adds up.



**“I need to share performance suggestions, advance-notes to prepare for rehearsals... and recordings of my voice, both spoken and singing”**

**Dr. Jody L Kerchner, Oberlin College and Conservatory**

When asked if a single platform that could integrate her notes, markups, and audio recordings would help, Dr. Kerchner comments, *“Well yes! I need to share performance suggestions, advance-notes to prepare for rehearsals, and adding recordings of my voice, both spoken comments and singing examples.”*

## **Newzik into action**

Newzik has a singularly unique technological approach to remote collaboration with a library of digital scores. Conductors and ensemble directors can organize scores, mark up and annotate parts, and virtually interact in real-time with students, pre-professional and professional players, as well as singers. Newzik also allows conductors and student performers to add audio notes and commentaries to scores and parts.

Dr. Whitmore's long experience with faculty, ensemble directors, and students at Berklee College of Music, where he served as a vice president from 2014-17, led to a powerful conversation about how Newzik's collaboration in the Cloud

transforms music rehearsing, performing, and composing for ensembles. This example is very much connected to Oberlin's Jody Kerchner's experiences as a guest conductor.

Composer Pedro Osuna, a recent Berklee graduate, shares a very poignant classroom and professional example. While composing for award-winning films, orchestrating Bond films for Hans Zimmer's team, and writing for television, he told Dr. Whitmore about the millions of pieces of paper used and quickly discarded (but of course recycled) both in the studio and while he was doing his undergraduate degree at Berklee.

*"If I had had access to Newzik's mark-up tools in the Cloud as I wrote and shared my college assignments, I would have had more time to make music and learn with fellow students, while saving millions of pieces of paper,"* shared Mr. Osuna.



**"Newzik's mark-up tools in the Cloud would have given me more time to make music with Berklee fellow students."**

**Mr. Pedro Osuna, Berklee College of Music, Boston, class of 2019**

## Conclusion

Newzik Web as well as recent enhancements to the Newzik iOS app offer a lot of opportunity for exemplary music teaching, rehearsing, and performing for students and teachers alike. Whether you are a music educator teaching ensembles and lessons from home during COVID, a guest conductor heading off to next year's all-state or all-county ensemble rehearsals and performances, or a college student composing assignments and final projects, Newzik and Newzik Web have immediate musical impacts.

To help schools and educators use the Newzik technology for both in-class and remote teaching, Newzik has just launched Newzik Education: a dedicated offer for education that includes all Newzik products and features at a special price. If this case study inspired you to try Newzik, you can get a demo or start your free trial at our website.

# They trust us



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