

***Recreating the Secondary General Music Classroom for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner:  
Teaching Music Through Composition with Technology  
Barbara Freedman <http://MusicEdTech.com>***

**Learn technology:**

Freedman's TeacherTube Videos (search: Barbara Freedman)  
[http://www.teachertube.com/videoList.php?pg=uservideolist&user\\_id=68392](http://www.teachertube.com/videoList.php?pg=uservideolist&user_id=68392)  
MusicEdTech YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/MusicEdTech>  
<http://www.musictechtutorials.com/>  
<http://www.berkleeshares.com/>  
<http://www.tweakheadz.com/>  
<http://x2.i-dat.org/~csem/UNESCO/>  
Google or go to YouTube and enter the name of your software into the search engine.  
<http://www.apple.com/support/garageband/>  
<http://www.acoustica.com/mixcraft/support.htm>  
<http://www.ti-me.org/>

**Resources**

*Turn Any Computer Lab Into A Music Lab* article:  
<http://musicedtech.com/2010/05/04/turn-any-computer-lab-into-a-music-lab/>  
<http://musicpln.org/> a new networking site for music education professionals  
<http://www.vtmidi.org/>  
<http://www.ti-me.org/>  
<http://www.artistshousemusic.org/>  
<http://musiccreativity.org>

Barbara Freedman  
Greenwich High School  
<http://www.greenwickschools.org/page.cfm?p=1460>  
<http://167.206.79.135/staff/bfreedman/ghs/podcasts/home.html>  
iTunes Search: Greenwich High School  
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**Composition as a Vehicle for Learning Music**

In today's Music Education world, old-fashioned, lecture based Music Appreciation or General Music classes just don't cut it anymore. Regardless of prior music education or lack of thereof, students have access to sophisticated music software either free or inexpensively and are already composing their own music. Every student can have a meaningful hands-on applied learning experience that will impact not only their music experience and learning but also their understanding and comfort with 21<sup>st</sup> century technology. Technology allows a musical experience for all skill levels never before possible, composition without having to know much about traditional music theory or notation. We are now faced with a new challenge in music education, to re-prioritize what skills need to be taught in order to foster music composition given the available music technology. As music educators, we understand that there is and always will be a need to teach students the basic elements of music and music composition if our students are to create sophisticated music. The question is: what are the necessary skills and how do we best deliver those skills given the technology available?

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The following is the first section of a soon-to-be-released book by Barbara Freedman. It is a multimedia curriculum for teaching music through composition using technology. This presentation will discuss the underlined lessons. Lesson plans and other materials are in this handout-packet.

**Introduction to Music Composition**

- 1) Tour of a Sequencer
  - a) Software Instruments
  - b) Loops Library
- 2) Using Loops
  - a) Creating Melodies with Loops
  - b) Using Loops to Create Accompaniment
  - c) Understanding Song (AB) Form
  - d) Creating the First Piece with Loops (*Project*)
- 3) Recording Drum Tracks
  - a) Understanding Basic Rhythms
  - b) Reading and Playing Rhythms
  - c) Rhythm Dictations
  - d) Recreate Drum Patterns
  - e) Compose Your Own Drum Patterns
- 4) Composing Drum Grooves (*Project*)
- 5) Writing Melodies
  - a) Understanding the Piano Keyboard
  - b) Melodic Dictations
  - c) Evaluating Melodies
  - d) Compose Your Own Melody (D Dorian)
- 6) Melody Variations Using Rhythmic Alterations
  - a) Create Melodic Fragments, Rhythmic Augmentation, Rhythmic Diminution
- 7) Creating More Variations
  - a) Changing the Range of Regions
- 8) Composing with Original Loops
  - a) Modified Sonata Allegro Form (*Project*)

**Intermediate and Advanced Composition Projects Include:**

- 1) Pieces for solo instruments or chamber ensembles
- 2) The Speech Project using prerecorded audio as a focal point in a piece
- 3) Ringtones
- 4) Music to Video