

It's rare for something to come along that changes the way you play and think about music. Three years ago in 2008 I wrote about the MusicPad Pro from FreeHand systems and how I was using it and how it was benefiting me as a visually impaired music student. Now, in 2011, I am in my final year of secondary school at Lenzie Academy in East Dunbartonshire and I'm proud to say that the MusicPad Pro is still with me. A lot has happened in the past three years; I have used the MusicPad without fail in Music Practical examinations at Standard Grade, Higher, and recently at Advanced Higher level. I have also used the MusicPad in concerts with East Dunbartonshire String Ensemble at the prestigious Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. The MusicPad never fails to amaze and fascinate other musicians and it's a delight to be able to show it to them and show them how I use it as a percussionist.

I continue to use my MusicPad with enlarged scores. Digital sheet music offers great flexibility with the size of scores. Before using the MusicPad, scores would have to be enlarged to A3 supported by a large piece of cardboard – far from an ideal solution. The MusicPad is not only physically smaller, but scores can be magnified at any level on demand which is an invaluable feature of digital sheet music. The MusicPad means that I can spend less time worrying about what is written in the music, and more time playing and learning what it written. The system has been a key part of my musical career in the past three years, and it continues to be a reliable and fundamental of my music education and performance.

Regards,

Scott Houston.