lesson ideas for Soundtrap & Bandlab

for music teachers

(and GarageBand)

midnight music

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Midnight Music

digital learning coach for
music teachers, podcaster,
blogger, speaker

housekeeping

- tech issues – usually your internet (!)
- copy of slides – provided
- moderator of chat: **Amy Burns**

about this session

agenda

today's session

- a very brief comparison between Bandlab and Soundtrap
- general tips
- lesson ideas/inspiration

not today...

- account setup
- basic how-to
  (lots of videos on Youtube!)
- classroom & assignment management
- see Wakelet collection for links

soundtrap & bandlab

what do they do?

what can you do?

- digital audio workstation (DAW)
- record via mic: voice/instruments (audio)
- record/play software instruments (MIDI)
- edit audio/MIDI (cut/copy/effects etc)
- use premade loops & SFX
- collaborate remotely

both apps...

- consumer version: 13+ only
- education: all ages
- education: “walled garden”

Soundtrap (EDU)

- paid
- works on all devices (kinda...)
- iPad version lacks some features (MIDI editing, beatmaker, video chat, admin)
- time signatures: 3/4 & 4/4 only
- interactive transcription tool (narration)
- collaboration: simulataneous editors

Bandlab (EDU)

- free
- Mac, PC, Chromebooks
- can't access EDU version on iPad
- time signatures: many!
- notepad (for lyrics & text notes)
- collaboration: "pass the ball"

before you start

tips

getting started

- define outcomes
- projects include musical & tech skills
- beginner: fewer tracks, shorter
- advanced: can encompass more

you can utilise templates

- set up the project “shell"
- can allow students to get to the important aspect of the lesson
- include empty instrument tracks, key, tempo, guide tracks, metronome settings

the golden rule

do the project yourself

- from start to finish
- what went wrong?
- what was a surprise?
- which parts were quick? Slow?
- how did you save/export/share?
- use your version as exemplar

lesson ideas

easy to advanced

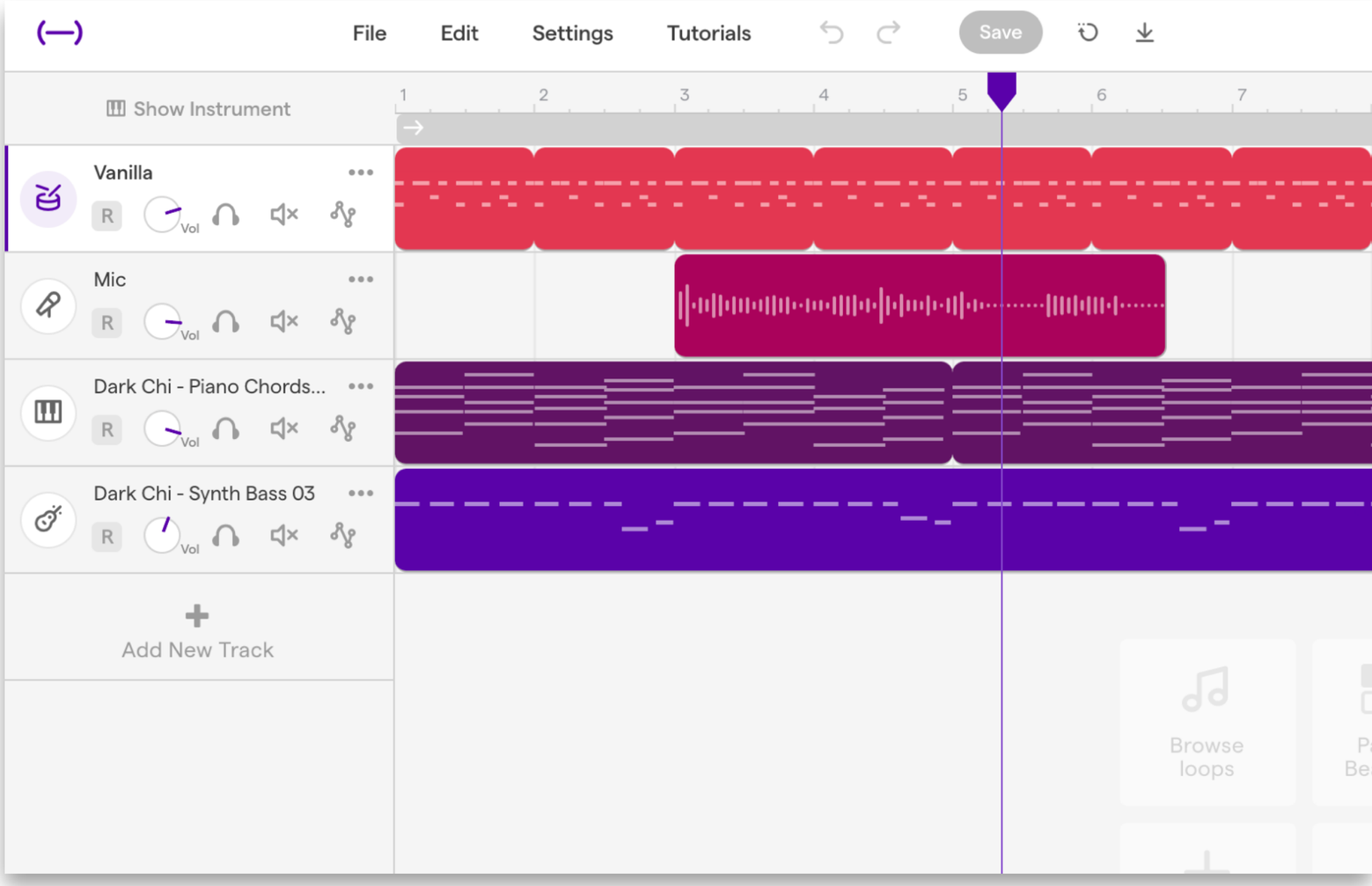
simple

lesson ideas: simple

- Rap My Name
- Technical Work “Journal”
- Melody Writer
- Ensemble Soloist
- Boom Snap Clap

rap my name

- write a short rap
- record rap to metronome
- add voice effect
- add drums



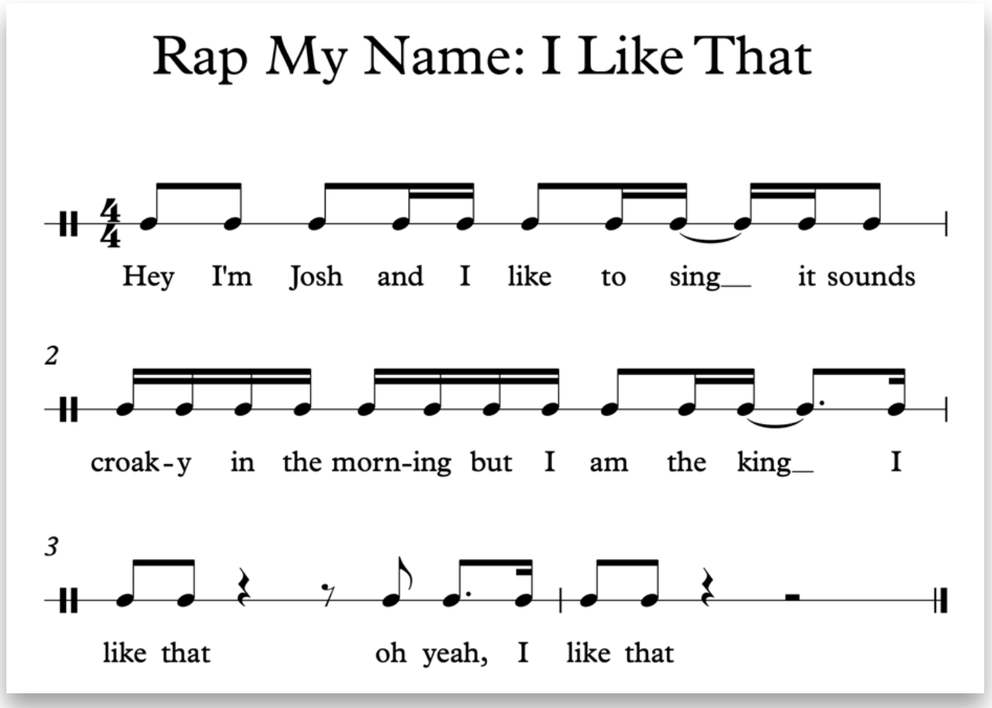
Hey I'm [name]

And I like to [fill in the gap]

[then add something about the thing you like – final word rhymes with end of line 1]

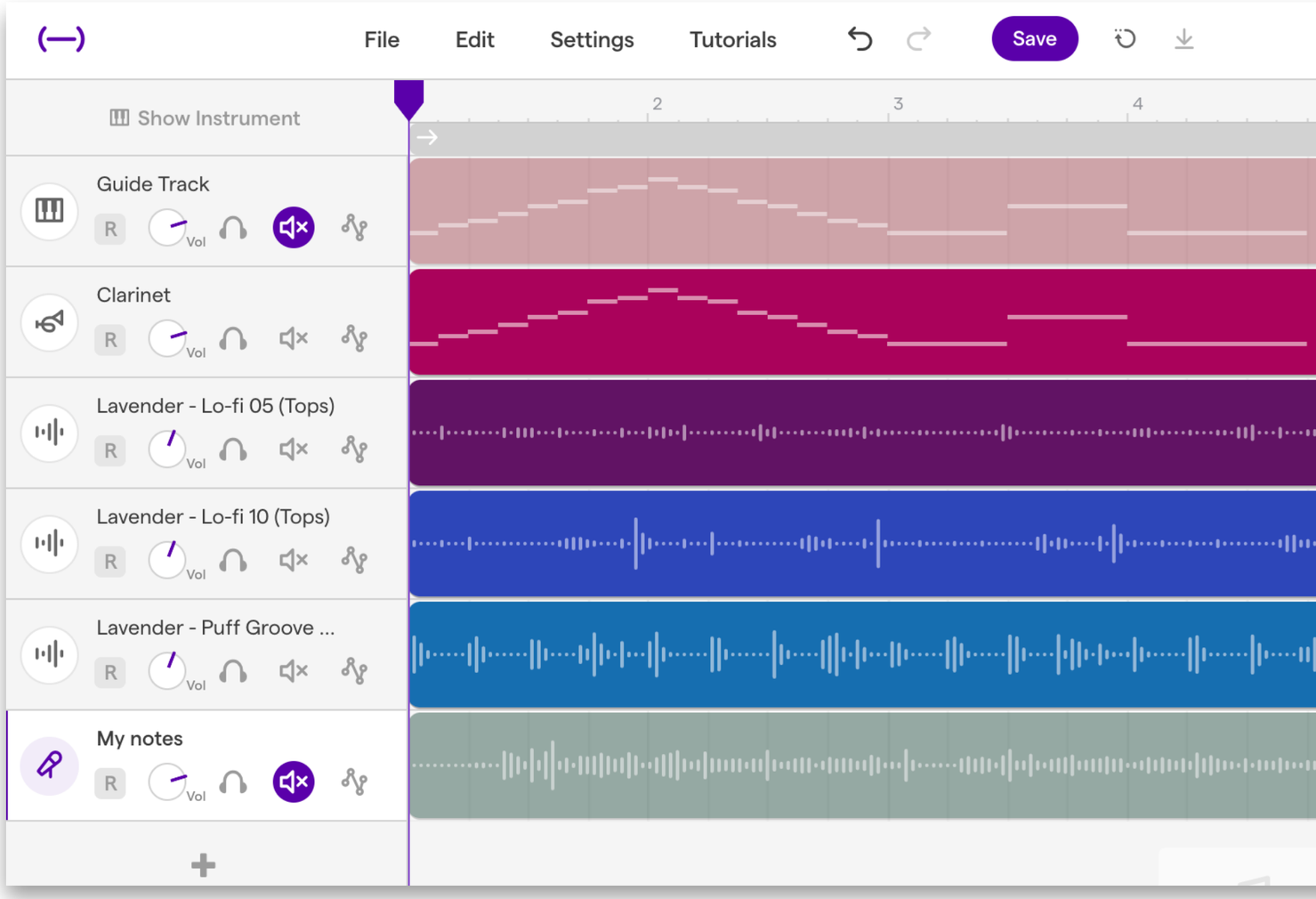
I like that

Oh yeah, I like that



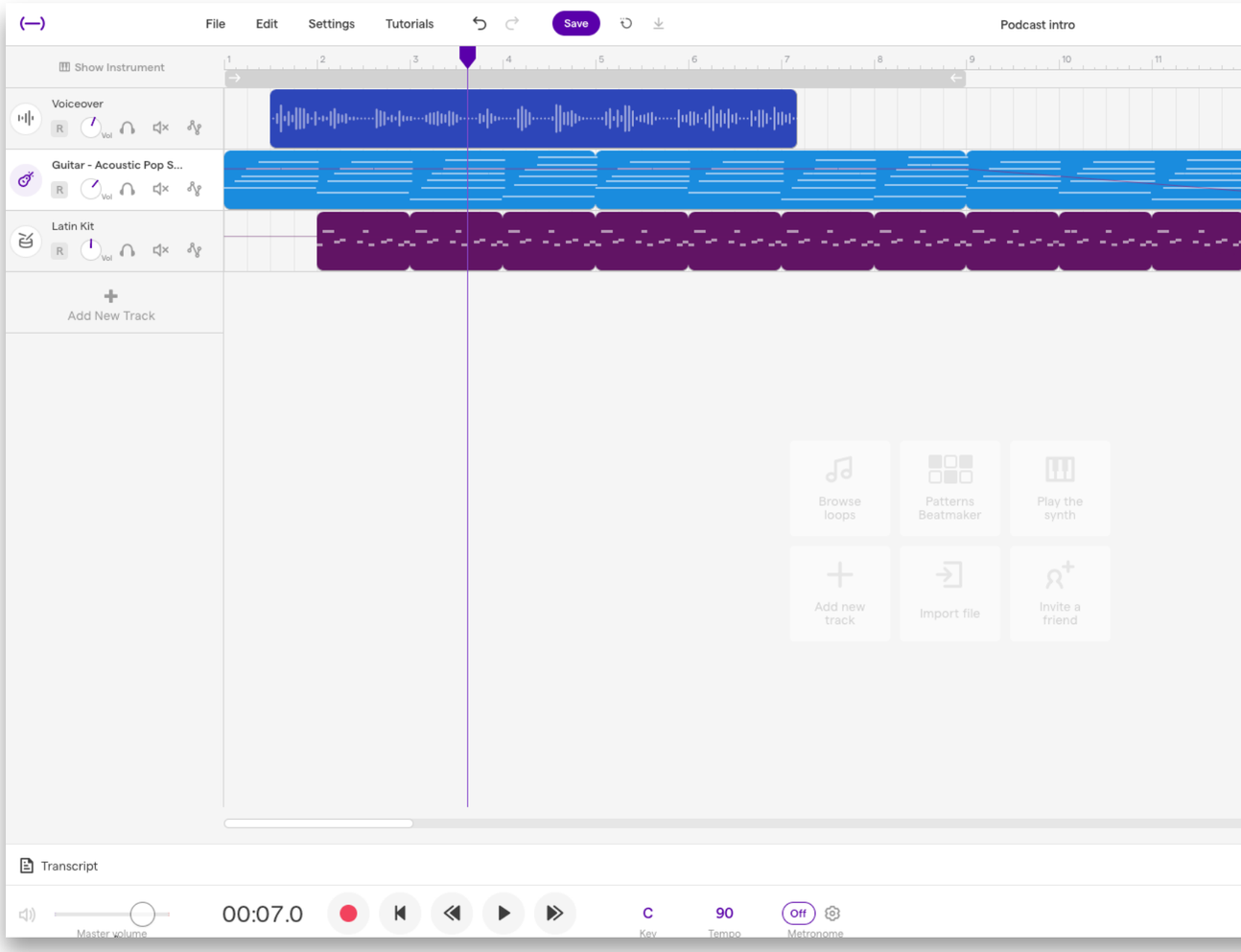
technical work “journal”

- record guide track
- record scale to metronome
- add drum backing
- add track for voice memos (mute when not required)



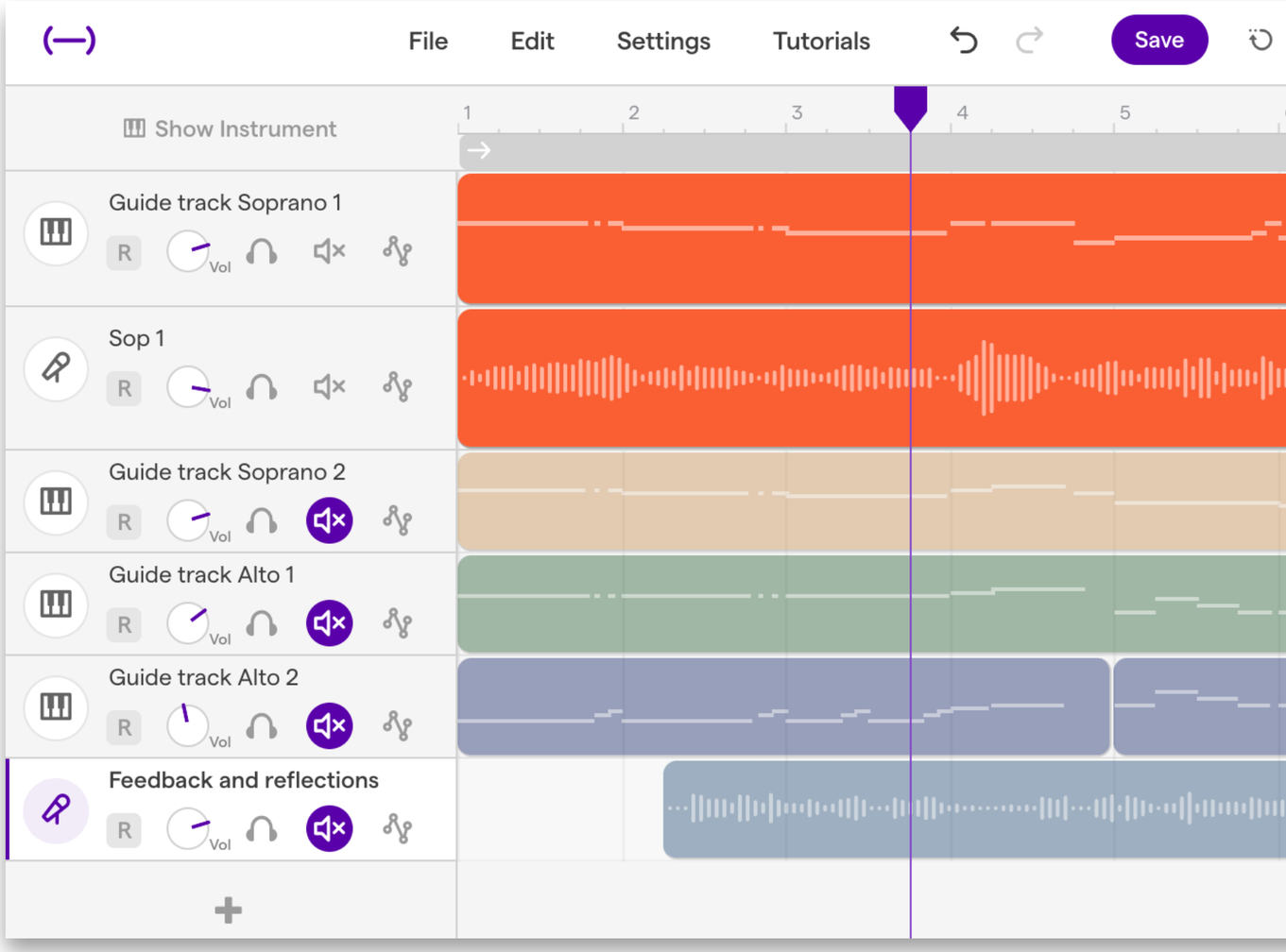
melody writing

- compose melody within parameters
- form: ABA, rondo, question/answer
- use specific scale/mode
- label sections using empty MIDI regions (shown later)
- compose a warm-up for your ensemble



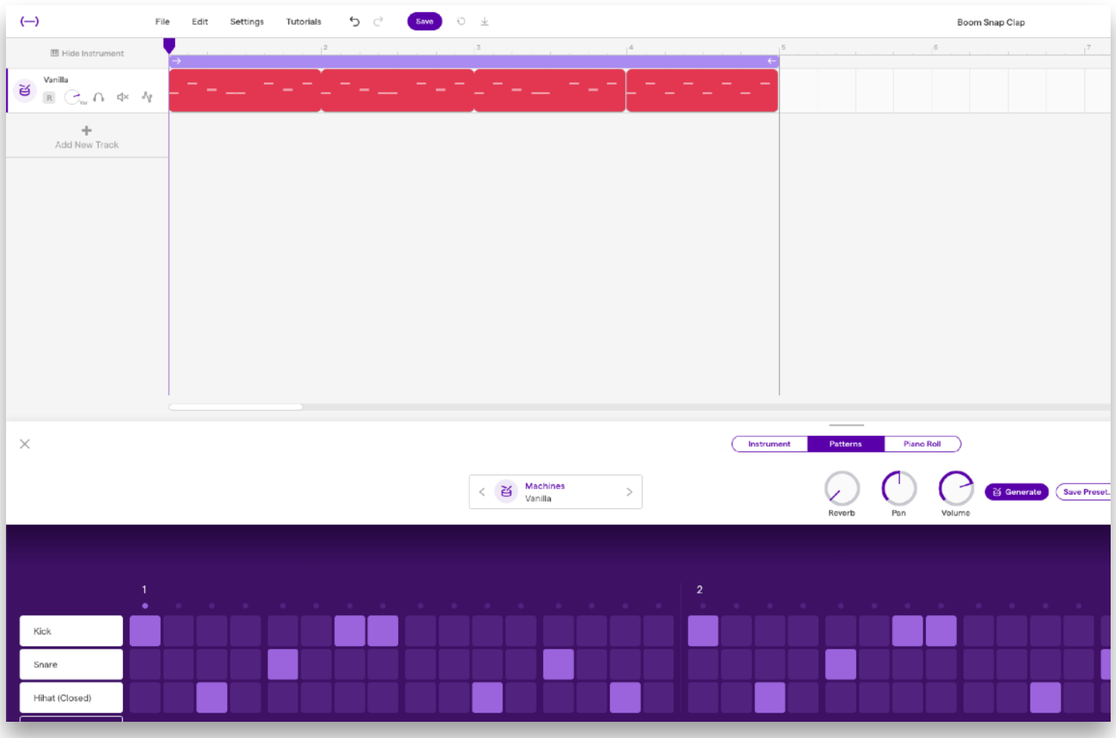
ensemble practice

- choose a section of your piece
- create/locate a reference track
- record your part
- utilise cycle region
- slow down tempo
- add track & record feedback (mute when not required)



boom snap clap

- learn clapping game
- identify rhythm of each sound (boom/snap/clap)
- match each sound with parts of a drum kit
- record each part using kit



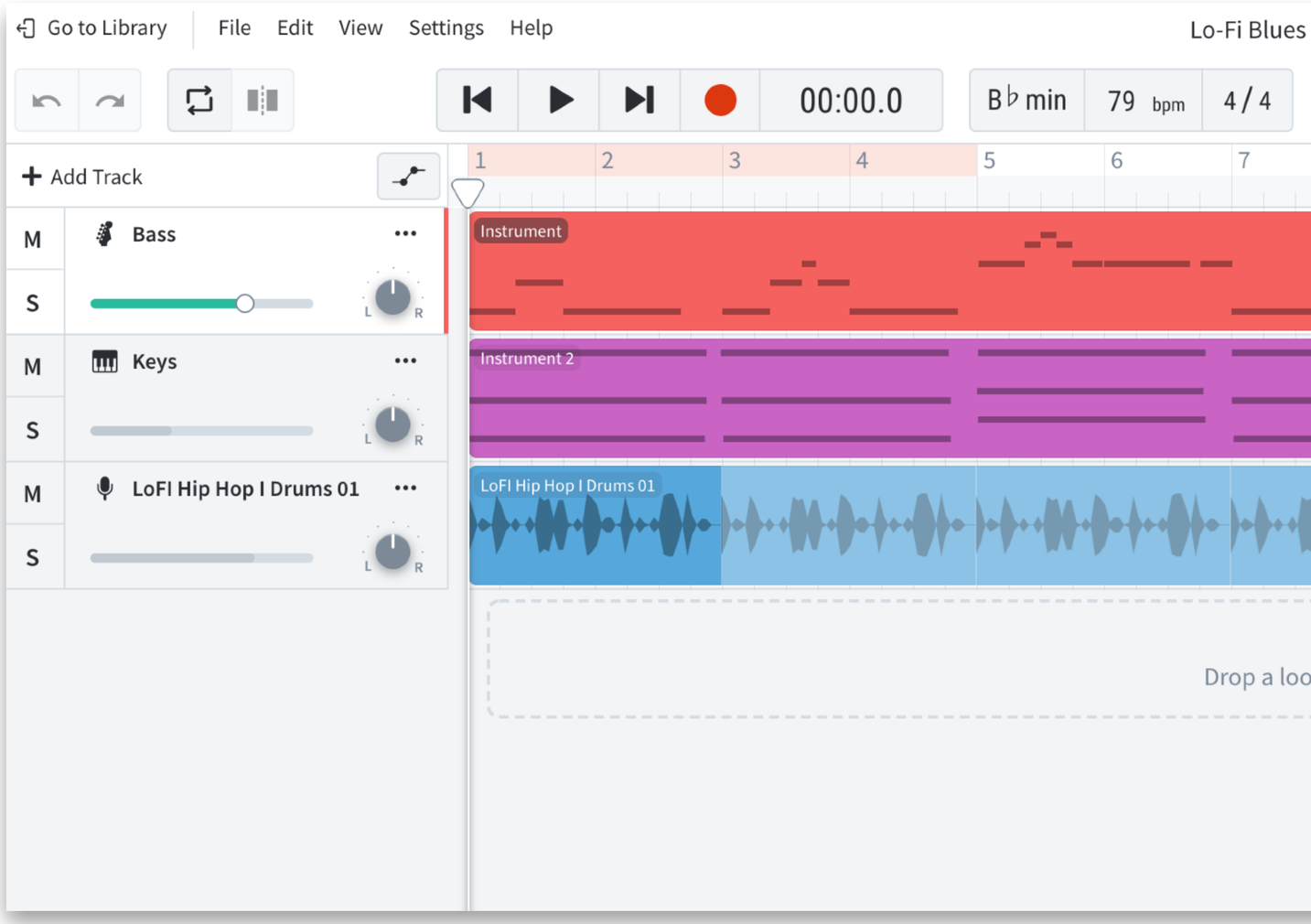
intermediate

lesson ideas: intermediate

- Transforming The Blues
- The 4-Chord Wonder
- The Found Sound Challenge
- Multitracking With Friends
- Sound Story, Nursery Rhymes Recut, Children's Book
- Compose Youtube channel theme music

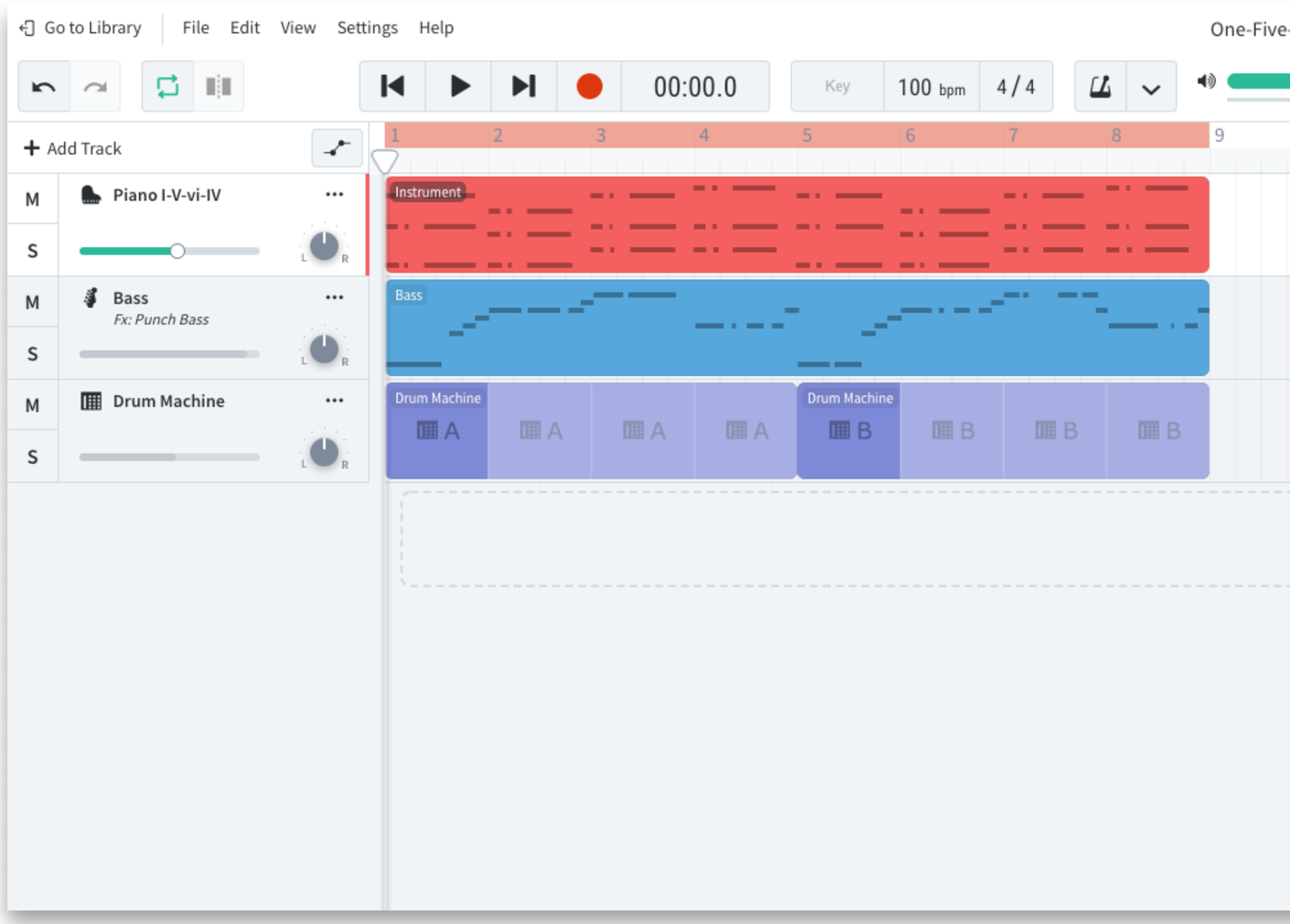
transforming the blues

- listen: blues in different styles
- play: chords & bassline on ukes, guitars, keyboards
- record bassline, chords, drums
- use non-traditional styles
- improvise blues solo



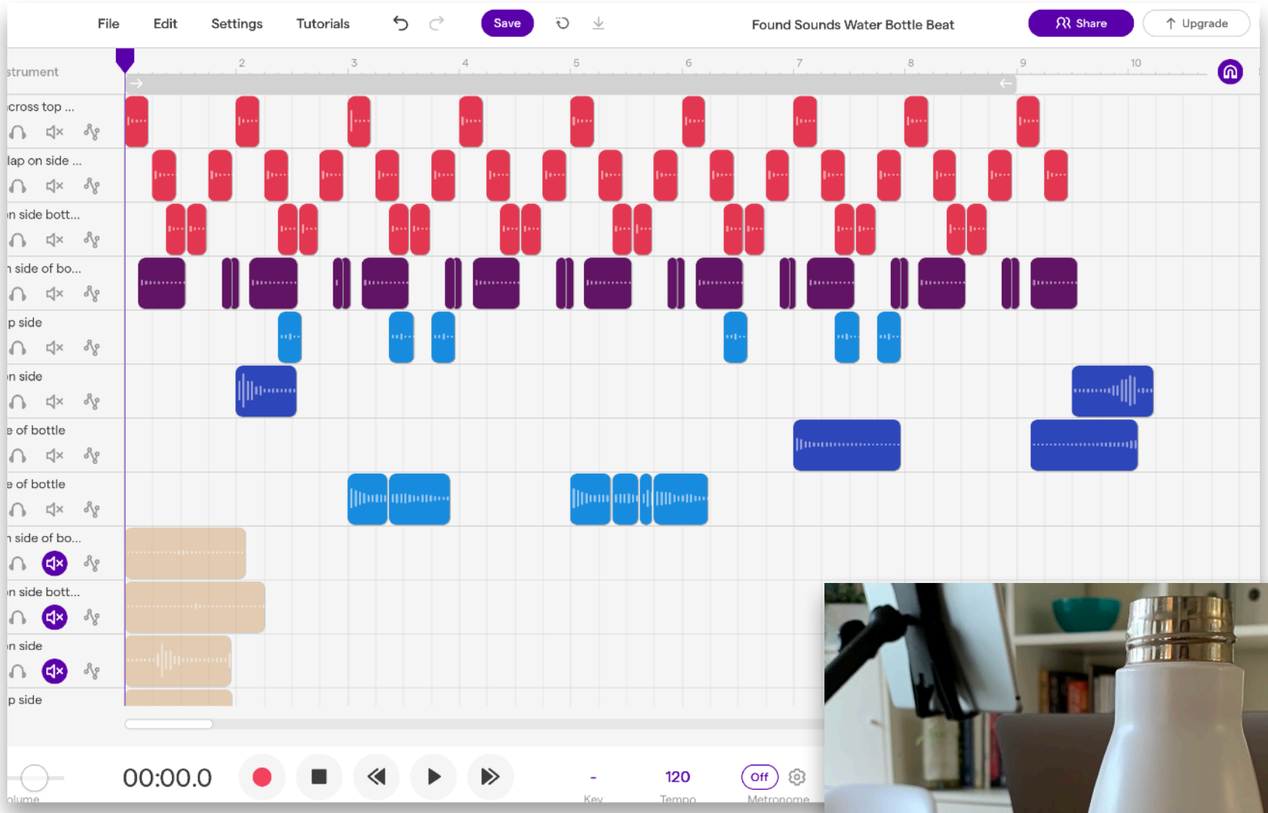
the 4-chord wonder

- listen: I-V-iv-IV songs (Axis of Awesome etc)
- play: chords on ukes, guitars, keyboards
- record chords
- add bass and drums
- write original melody/lyrics



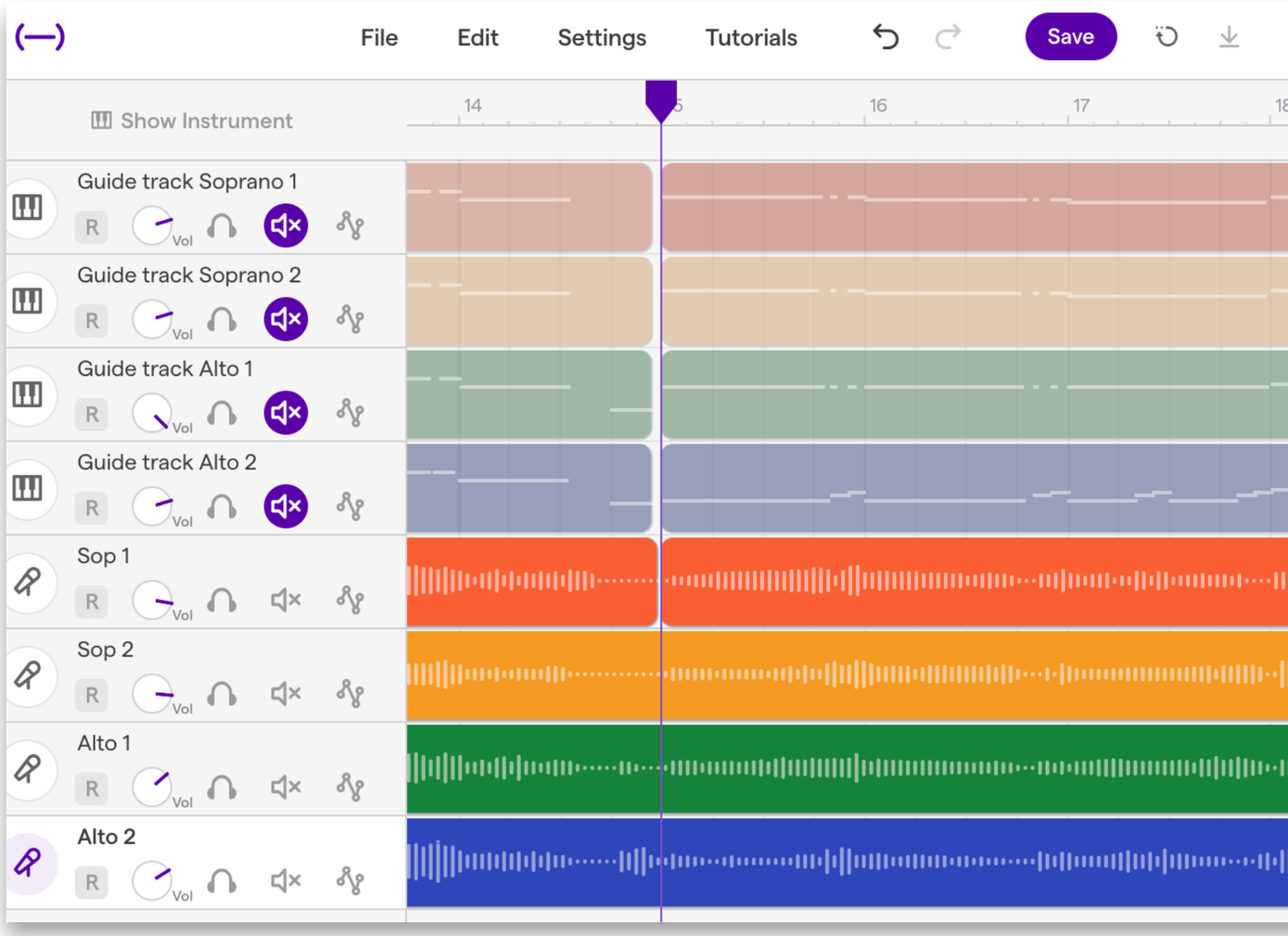
the found sound challenge

- choose a single object (table, chair, drink bottle, kitchen item etc)
- record a variety of sounds made with that object
- edit the sounds (trim ends, repitch, reverse, chop up)
- arrange the sounds to create a composition



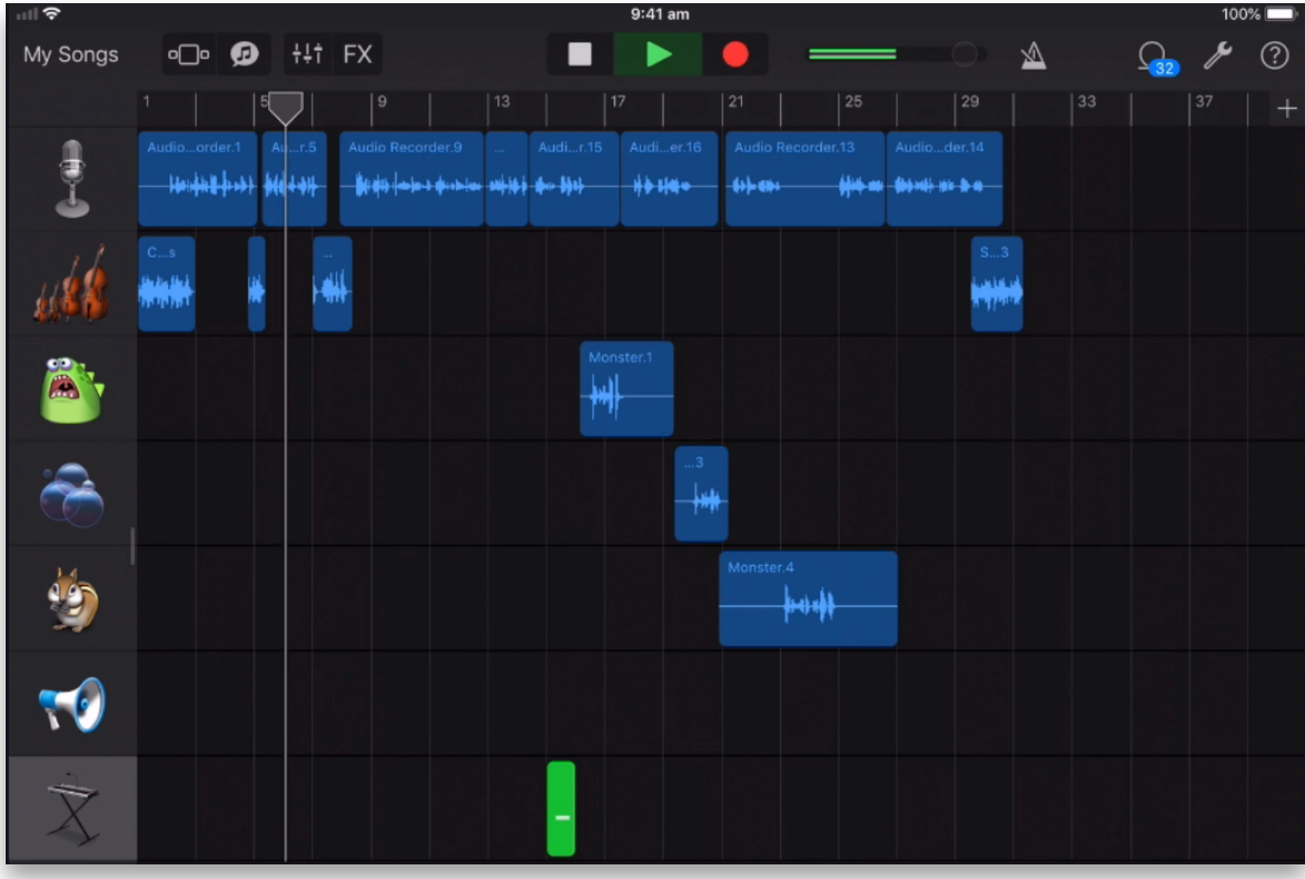
multitracking with friends

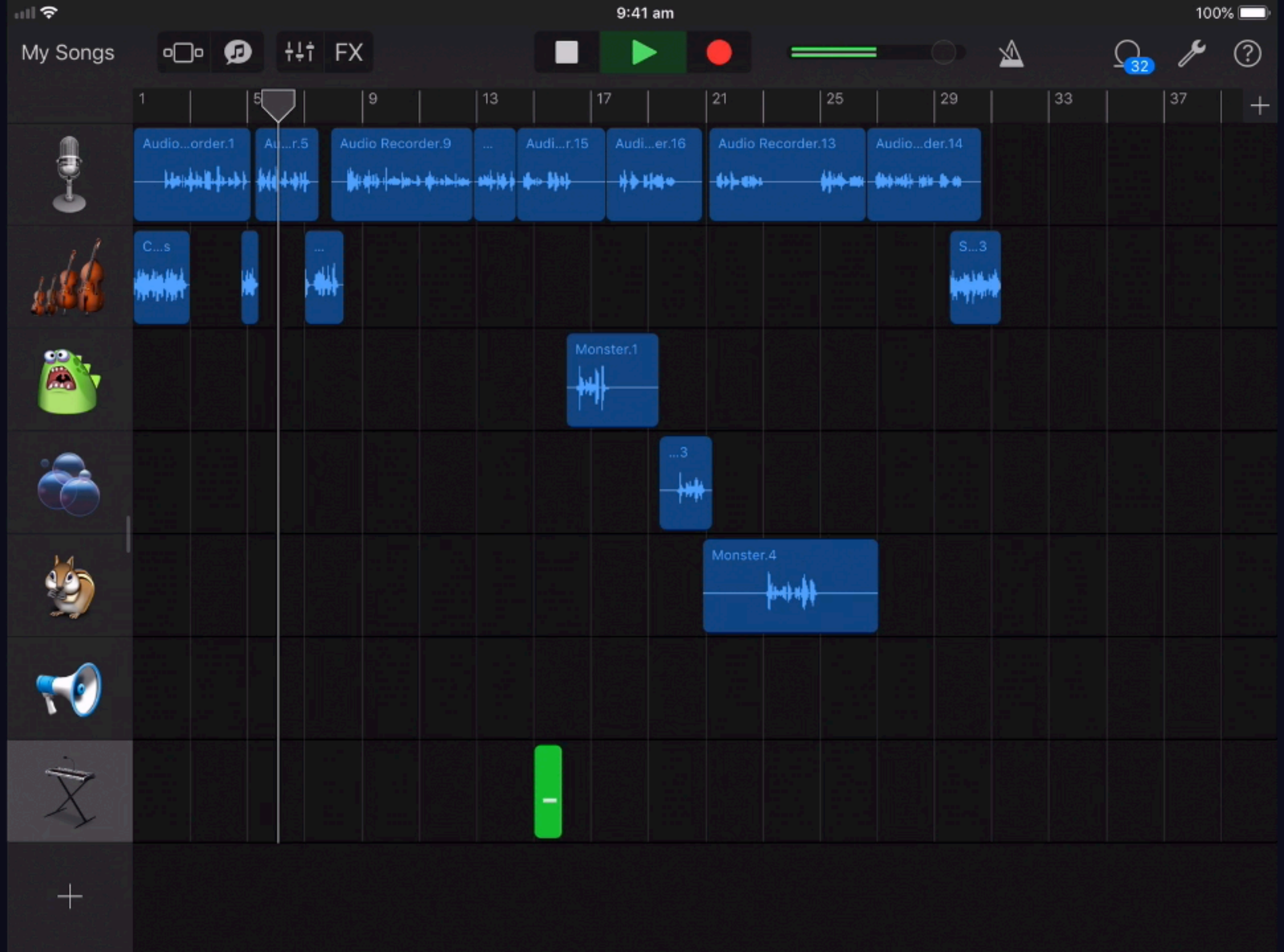
- choose a section of your piece
- create/locate a reference track
- record your part
- collaborate with members of your section: they can record their parts



nursery rhymes recut

- rewrite a nursery rhyme or present it as a news report
- record narration
- add voice effects & SFX
- add music to set the mood

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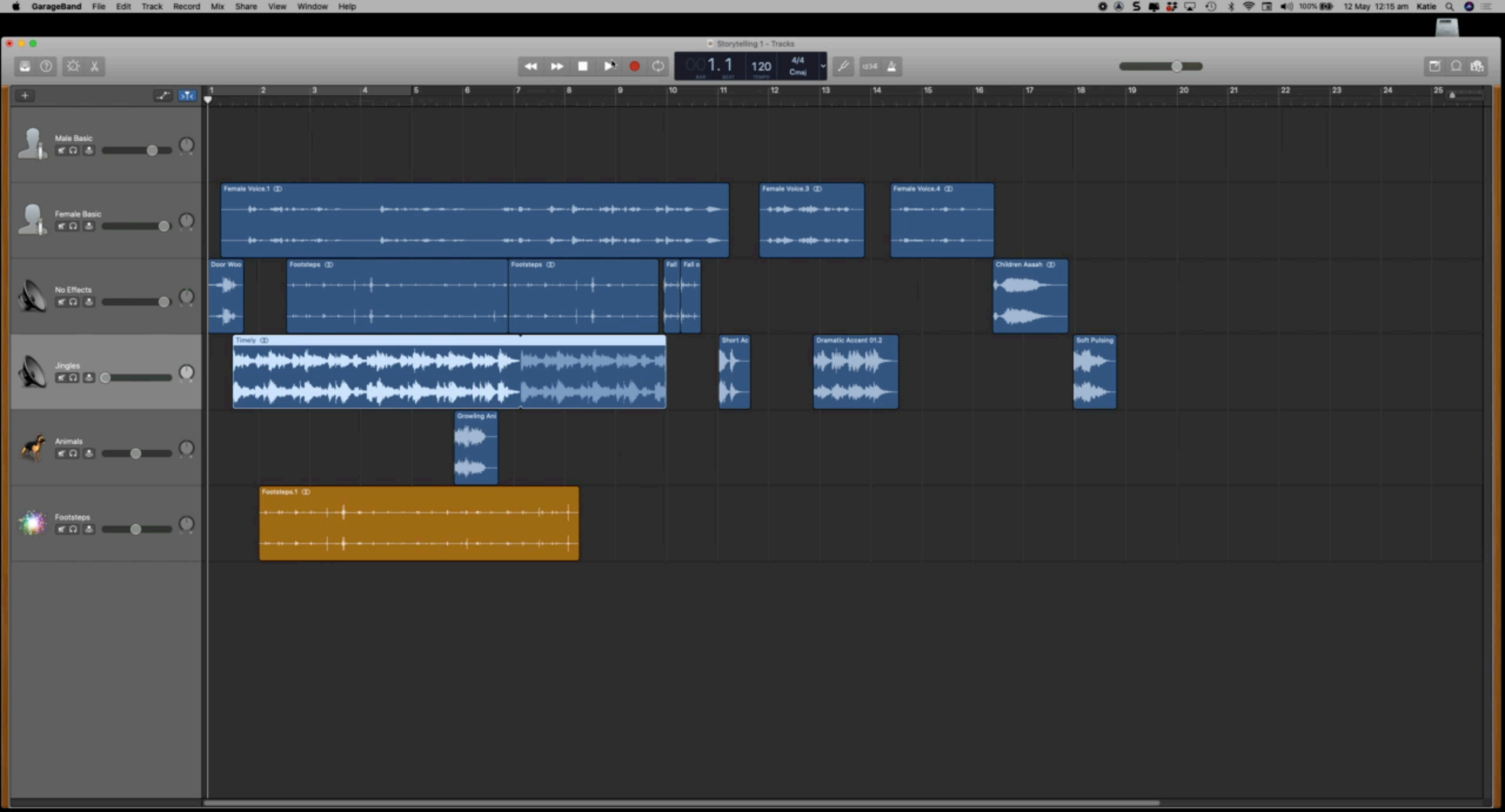
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Animals
Footsteps
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Female Voice.3
Female Voice.4
Door Woo
Footsteps
Footsteps
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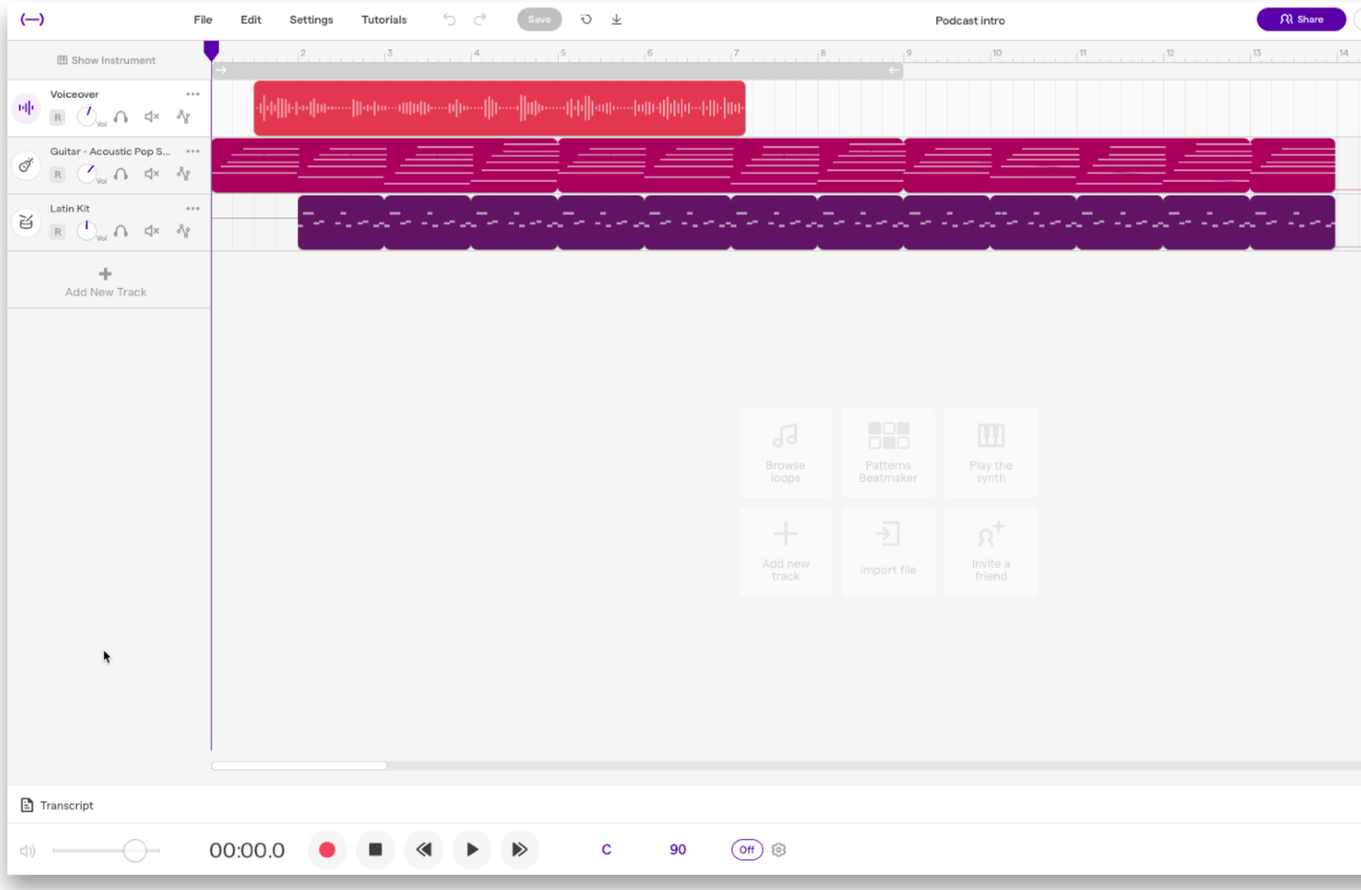
Children Aaaah
Timely
Short Ad
Dramatic Accent 01.2
Soft Pulsing
Growling Ani
Footsteps.1

host your own podcast

- works with almost any research or written project
- students analyse podcast format
- script the intro & outro
- compose theme music
- write show outline, interview guests, record and edit
- Soundtrap: interactive transcription



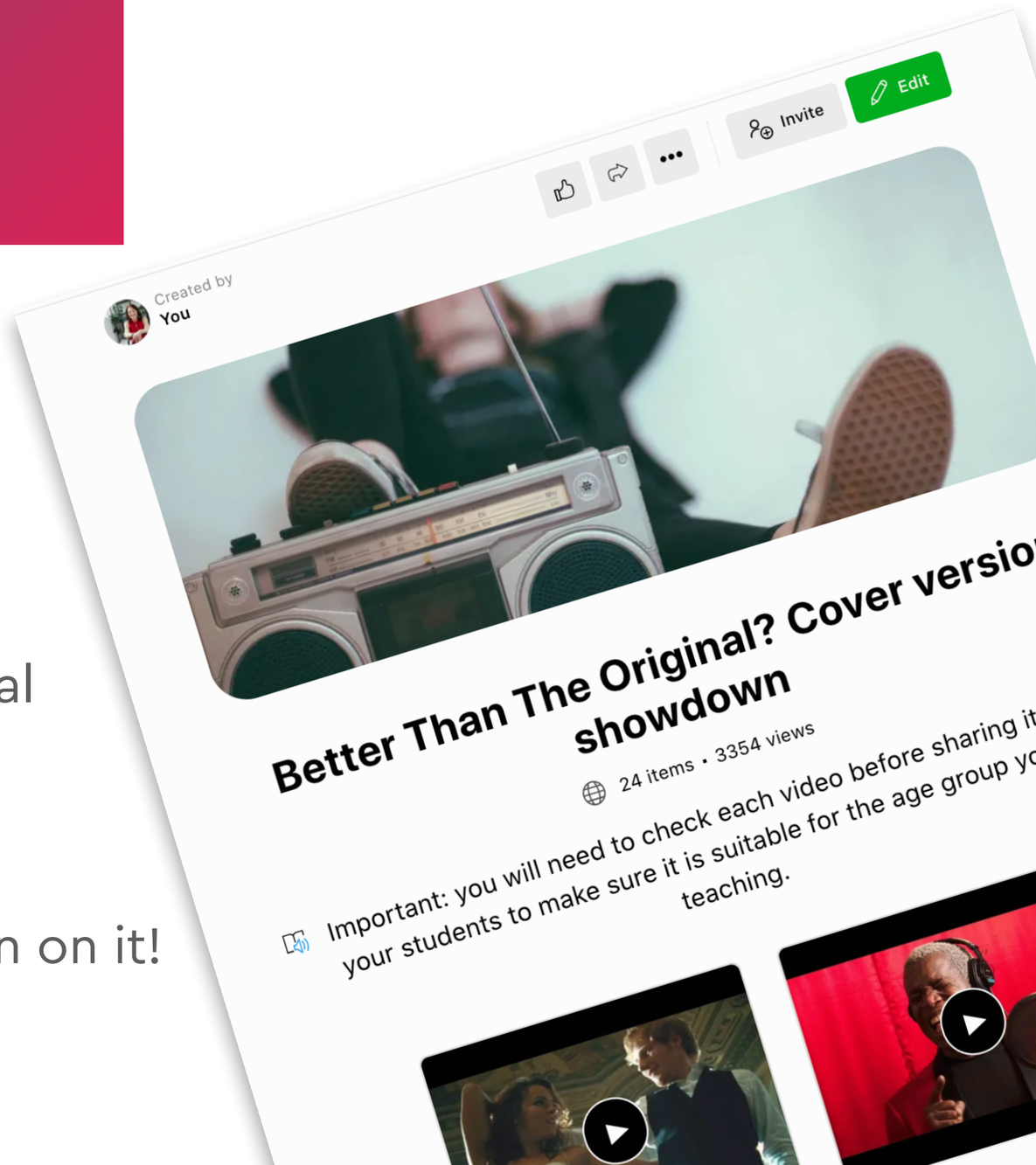
advanced

lesson ideas: advanced

- Cover It & Better Than The Original
- Virtual Ensemble (audio version)
- Sampling & Remixing
- Host Your Own Podcast
- Radio Plays
- Video Game Composer
- Film Scoring

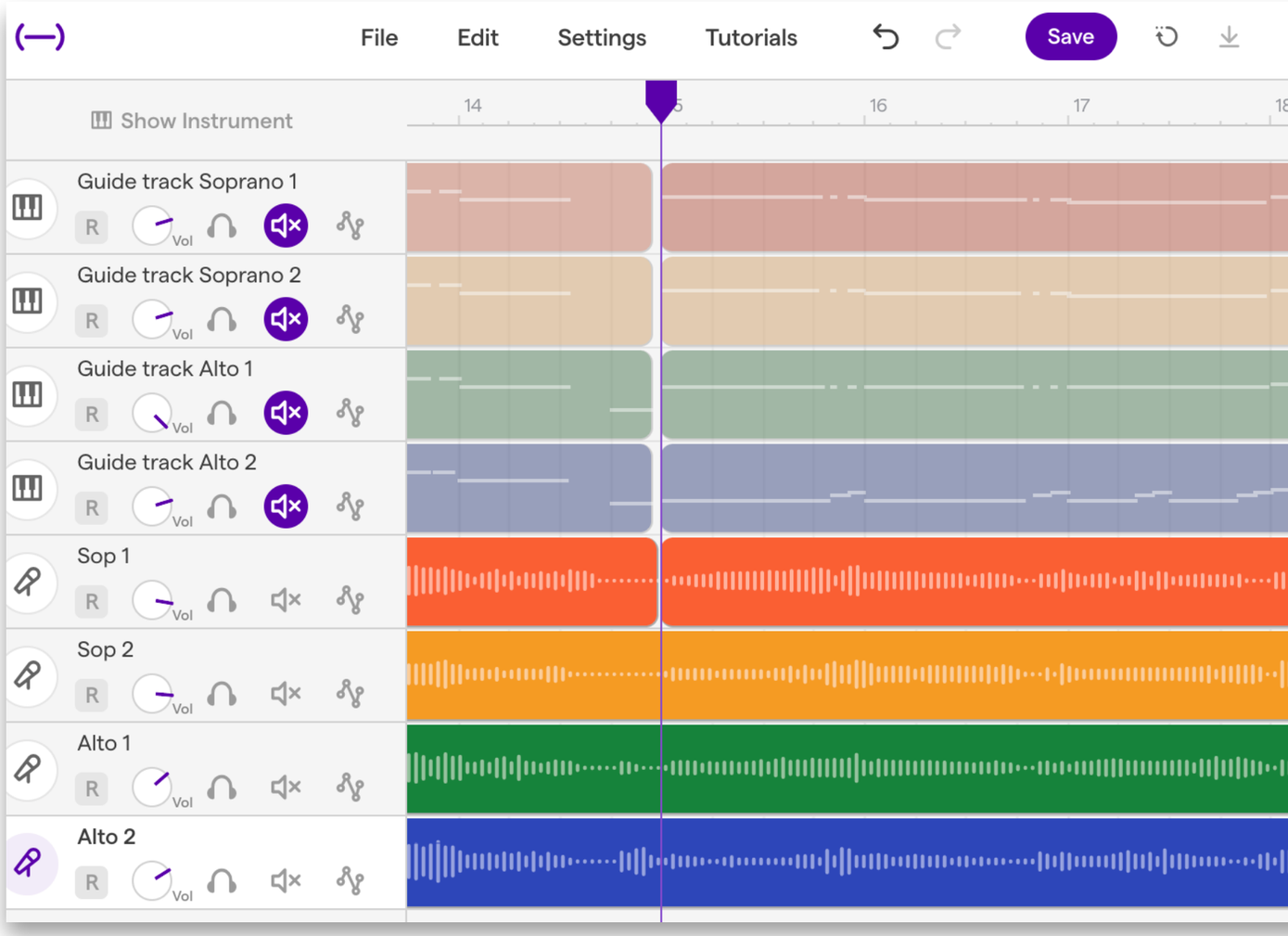
cover it OR
better than the original

- record a cover song
- option 1: **Cover It**
  Create a cover that's faithful to the original
- option 2: **Better Than The Original**
  Transform the song and put your own spin on it!



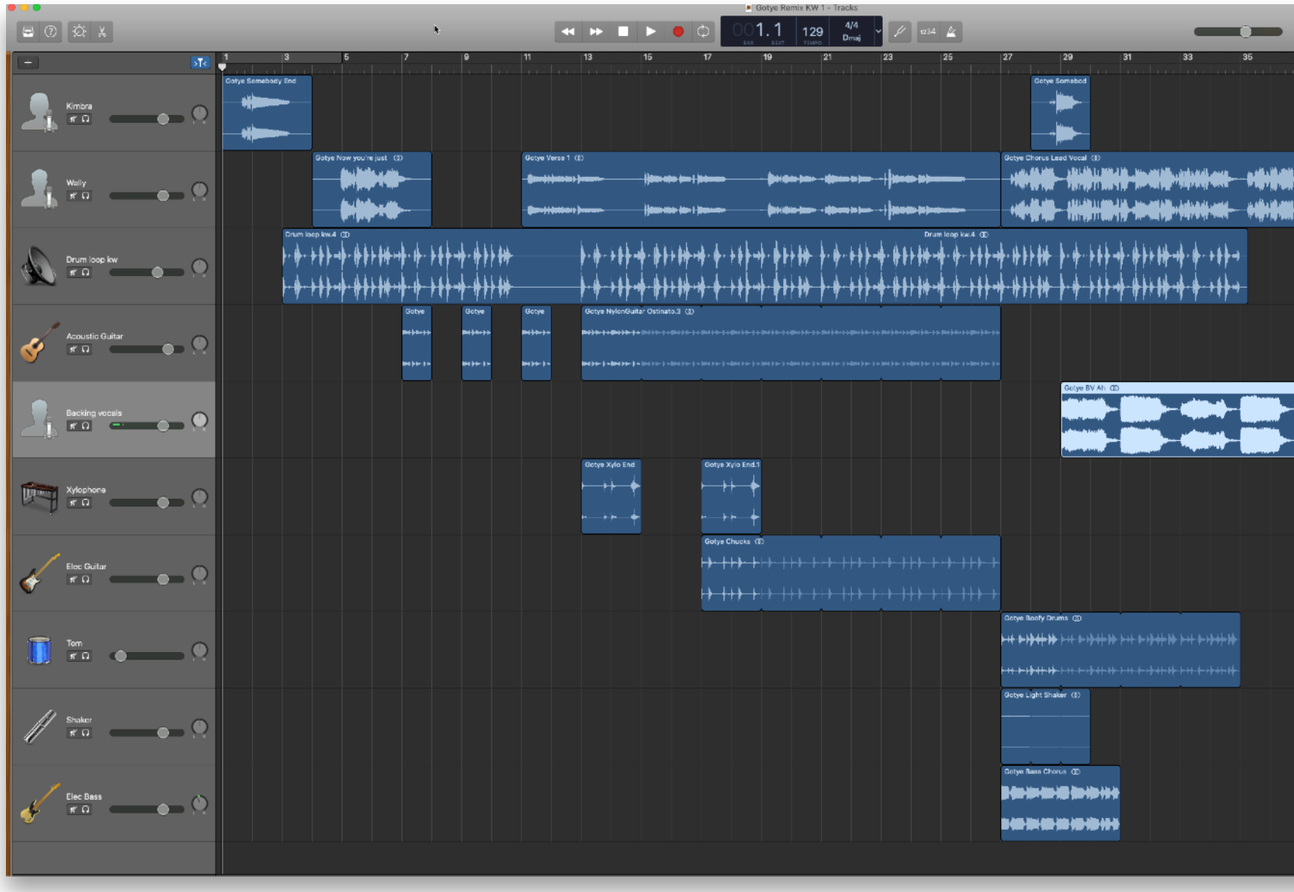
virtual ensemble

- create/locate guide tracks
- each student records their own part on a separate track
- recording can be done in separate takes (small sections)
- record in separate projects & then import into one
- or use collaboration option



sampling & remixing

- gather audio samples/stems
- create sound palette from samples
- then use samples in new piece or a cover
- Wait, That's A Sample? listening lesson

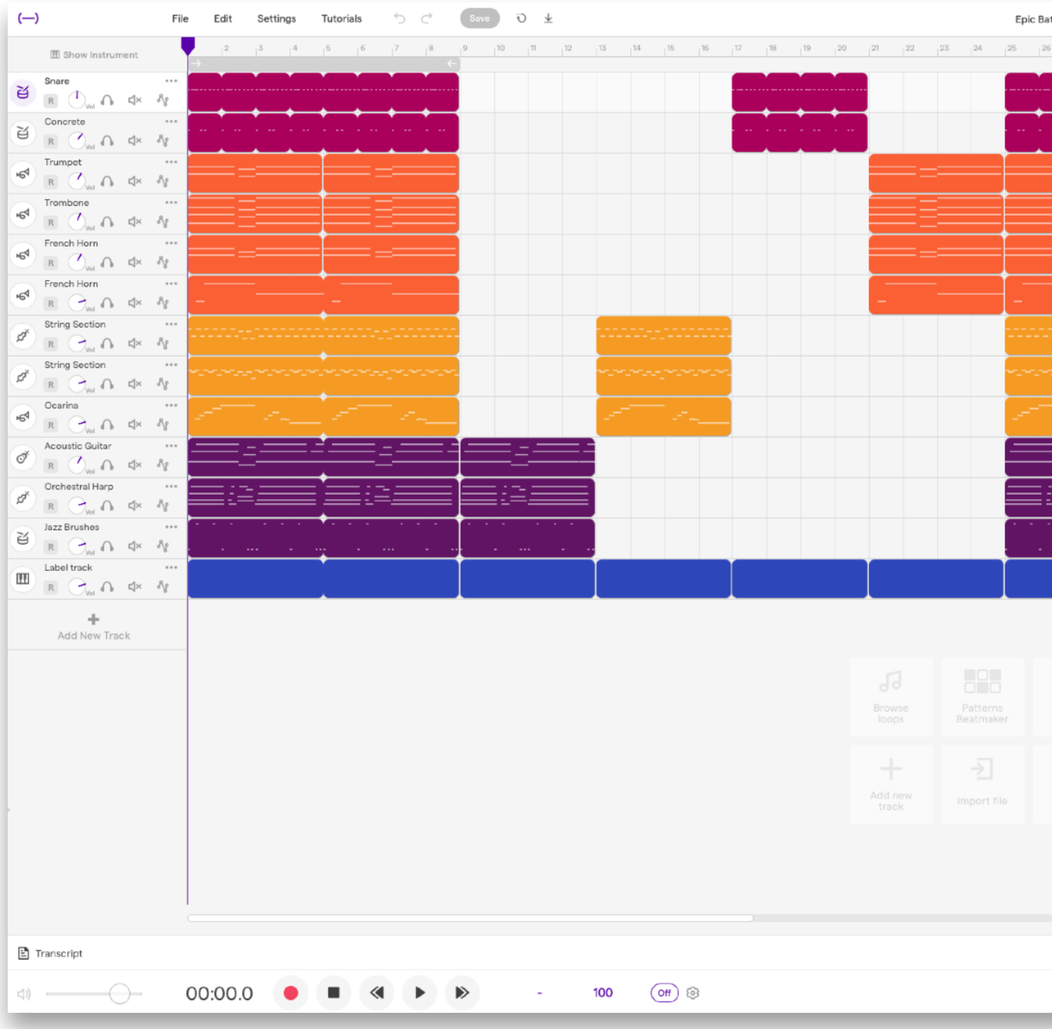


radio plays

- same tech skills & approach as sound stories and podcasts
- watch Back Of The Mike (1938): behind the scenes of radio play
- find short plays (ie. 5 Minute Mysteries) or write your own
- record voice parts, foley, SFX, music
- excellent group project

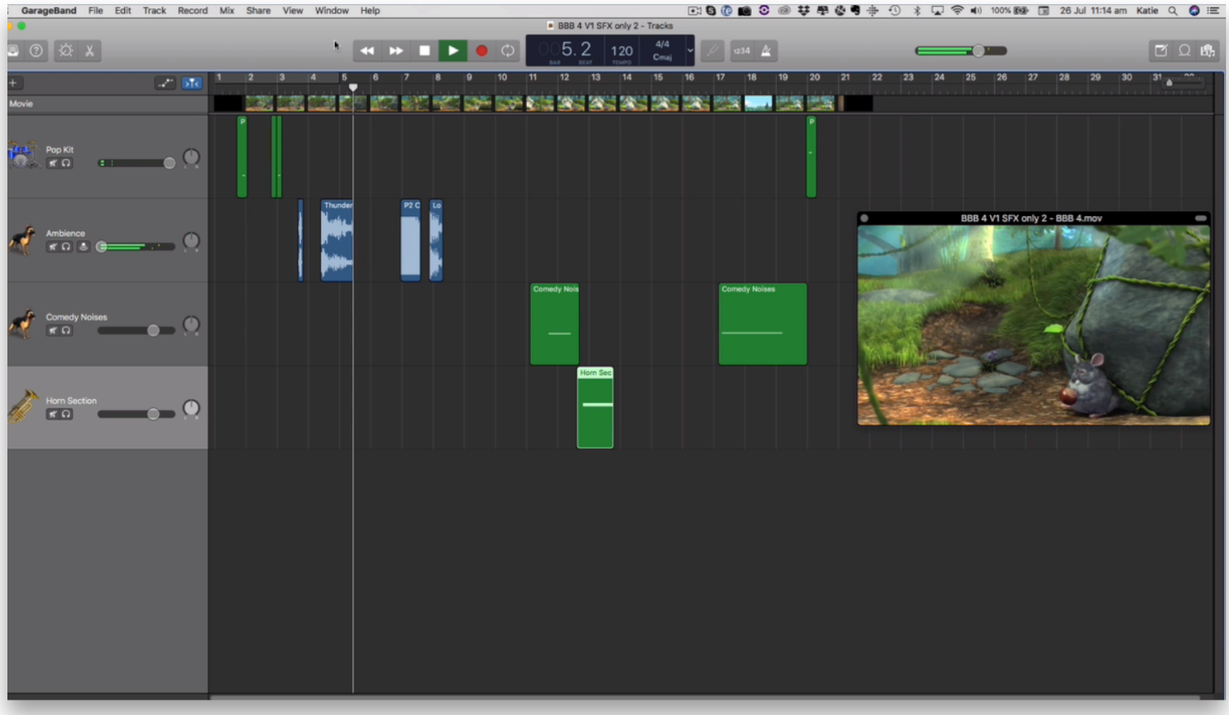
video game music

- technique: adaptive (layered loop) music
- examples: Winifred Phillips
- students invent game & describe one level
- compose 3 versions of the same loop
- vary instrumentation/texture/tone/intensity
- they all fit together



film scoring

- can't import video clip
- option 1: compose character theme
- option 2: compose mood music for a scene (specified time length)
- option 3: create cue sheet with timings of hit points; use timeline in Soundtrap or Bandlab as guide for soundtrack



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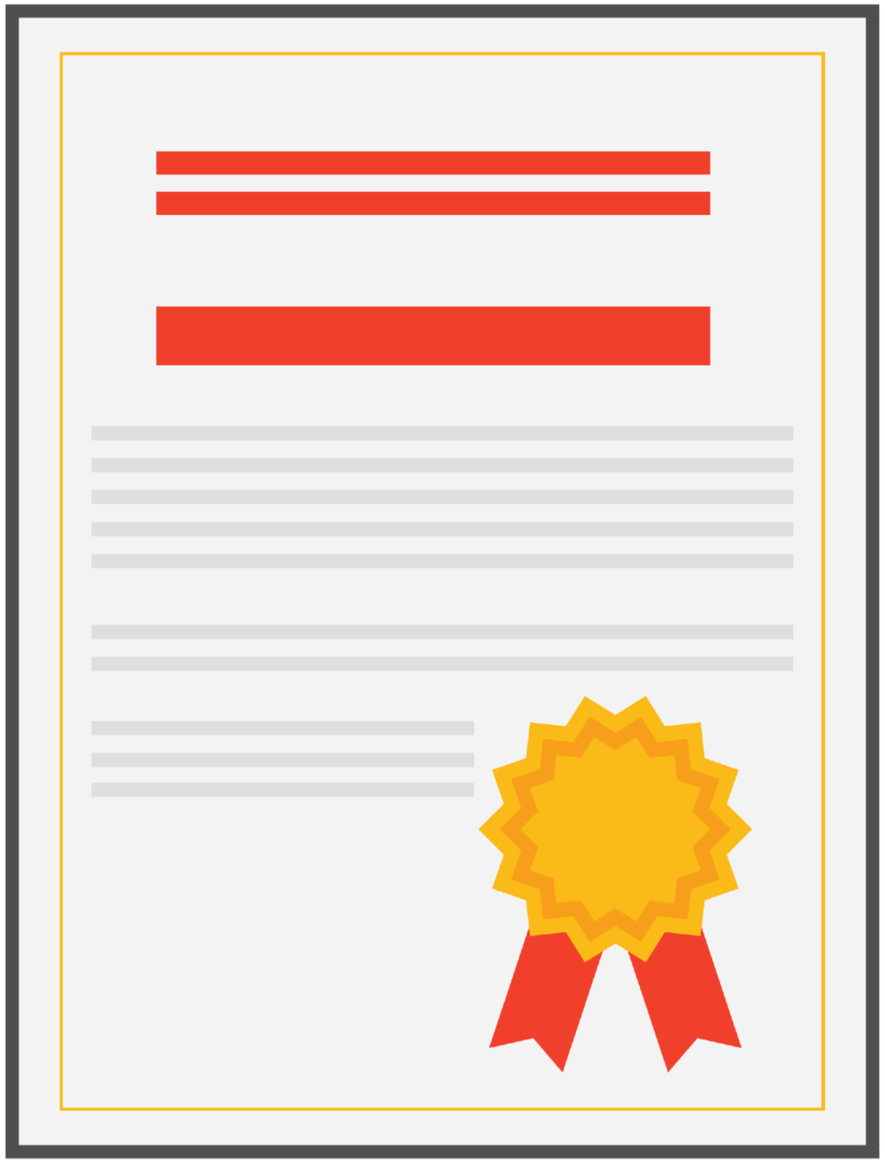
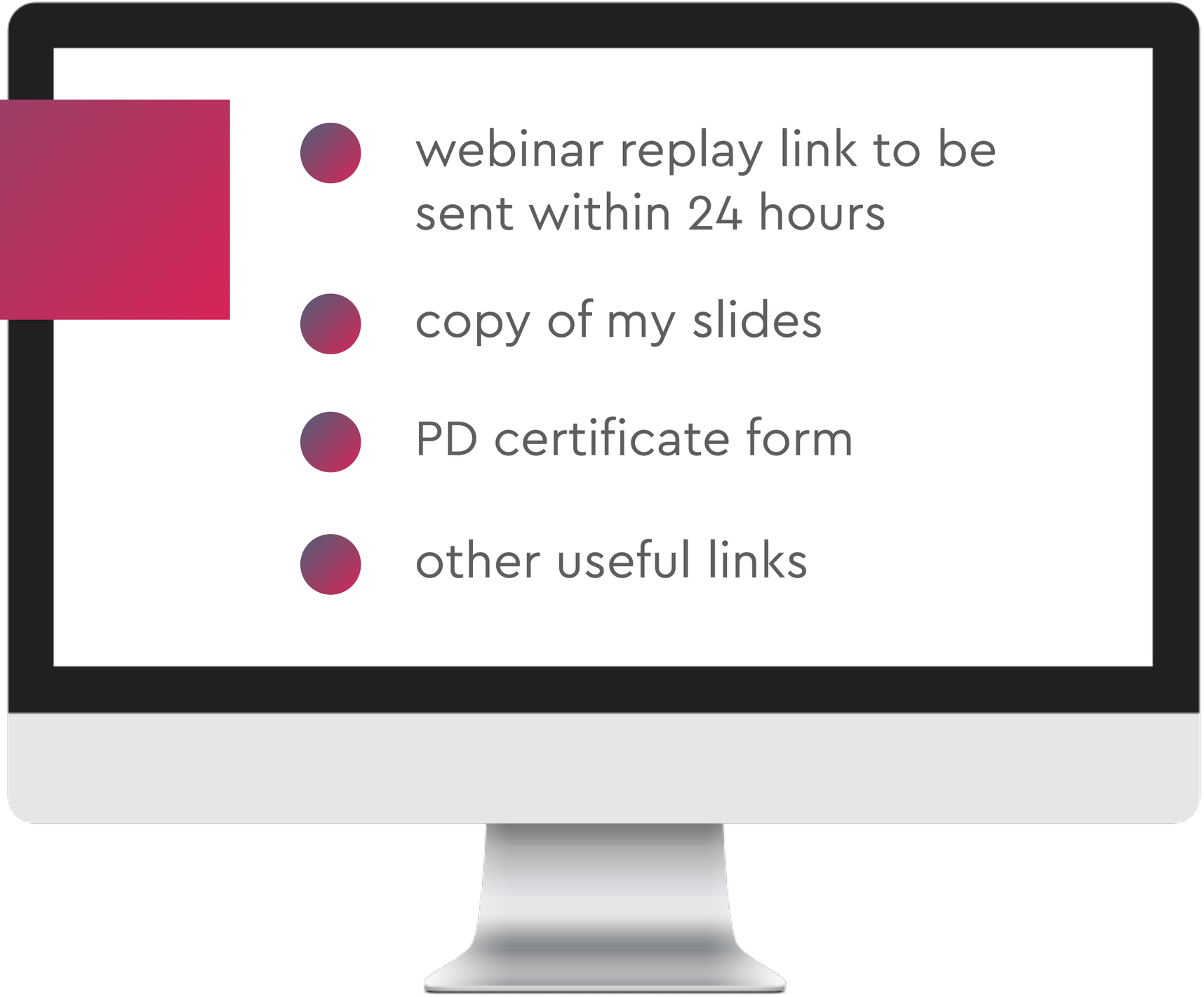


pd certificate

- midnightmusic.com.au/pdsoundtrap

thank you!


webinar replay link to be sent within 24 hours
copy of my slides
PD certificate form
other useful links

midnight music

June webinar 2021

Best free tech resources 2021-2022

introducing...

the midnight music community

An online community where music tech professional development, lesson ideas, and accountability come together.

JOIN THE COMMUNITY!

midnightmusic.com.au/join