

# *Auralia*

*Complete ear training for all musicians*

**Version 3.5**

## **User Guide**



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# Auralia Features Overview

Auralia contains 41 topics, covering areas such as Intervals, Chords, Scales, Harmony, Rhythm, Melody, Jazz Chords and Tuning. Each topic has a system of levels, allowing you and your students to work through Auralia's exercises in a progressive manner. Some topics also feature microphone input, such as Interval Singing.

Auralia includes many features that make using Auralia in a classroom or network environment very easy. We encourage you to use as many of these functions as possible.

Firstly, Auralia enables you to track all your students results individually. Numerous reports are built into Auralia, so that you may print out student results as the need arises.

The Professor allows you to automate student progress. The Professor will advise students when to move up and down through the levels, using settings that you control. These settings are different for each class, allowing great flexibility.

As a practise tool, Auralia excels, giving students a diverse selection of exercises to choose from. The testing features give Auralia a number of new applications. Tests have a predefined list of quesitons for students to attempt. All test results are stored separately and you may create as many tests as you desire. Tests can be used for exams and quizzes or simply to customise Auralia to your particular teaching method.

Auralia 3.5 integrates with Musition 3.5, allowing your students to have the same password and user name in both programs. On a multi user network system this feature becomes even more valuable.

# Topics

## Selecting a Topic

Auralia contains five topic groups, identified by the five large panels across the bottom of your screen. The topics within each group are listed under the group title. To select a topic, click on the name of the topic. You will then be shown a 'Level Selection' screen, where you will need to select a level.

## Selecting a syllabus and level

Select the syllabus that you would like to practise from the box marked 'Syllabus'. The available levels for that syllabus will then appear in the 'Level' box. Some syllabi will not have any levels in certain topics; this generally indicates that the particular topic isn't represented in the syllabus. There will always be levels in the 'Auralia 3.5 / Musition 3.5' syllabus, which is the syllabus provided by Rising Software.

As you click on a level, the accompanying description box will change to show the contents of the selected level.

All topics also have 'Custom Levels', where you can choose a selection of question types to be drilled on. This feature is very useful when trying to eliminate a particular problem (eg. Minor 2nds and Major 2nds in the Intervals topic). It is also possible to load and save custom levels in Auralia 3.5, using the syllabus setup features.

## Lesson Screens

All topics have an accompanying lessons screen. Basic concepts regarding the topic are outlined, and examples are given. For example, Chord Recognition Lessons shows you notated examples of chords and allows you to play the chords back. To enter a lessons screen, click on the Lessons button when selecting a level.

You may also enter a Lessons screen by using the 'Lessons' menu from the main screen.

## To Begin

To begin practising, click the 'Start' button on the level selection screen. If you decide not to proceed with the topic, you can click on the exit button to leave the level selection or drill screen.

## Using a Topic

When you have entered your answer, press OK. If you are practising, Auralia will tell you whether you were right or wrong. If you were wrong, you may be able to try again.

You can hear the question again (or the starting note for a singing topic) by pressing the

Replay button. When you are finished practising, or if you wish to cancel the rest of your test, press Exit.

Please consult the on line help system for more information regarding each topic.

## **Options**

Most options that you choose within the Administration screens in Auralia apply regardless of whether record keeping is enabled or disabled.

If you don't have record keeping enabled, Auralia uses the 'Default Class' settings for certain program options (onscreen keyboard, question retries etc).

These options have to be changed on the Class Administration screen, for the Default Class. See the section on Class Administration later in this manual for further information.

# The Auralia Screen

There are two toolbars in Auralia, one that is active in the drills, and another which is active on the main screen. Some functions are also accessed through the menu system.

## Main Toolbar

### Syllabus Selection

You can use the 'Syllabus' dropdown box to choose the syllabus that you'd like to practise. Once a syllabus has been chosen, only topics that are relevant for the syllabus will be shown. If you would like to use all topics, simply choose the 'Auralia 3.5 / Musition 3.5' syllabus, which has a levels for each topic.

### Starting a Test

If there are tests available for you to attempt, click on the button 'Start Test' on the main screen toolbar. The Test Information box will indicate whether you have started or finished the test, if the resume function is available, the number of times you can take the test, and the number of times you have taken the test.

If the resume function is available, you may stop doing the test part of the way through, and then resume at the point where you left off the next time you use Auralia.

NOTE: This function will only work if you are logged into Auralia, and recording your results.

### Checking your results

You can view your results by clicking on the button 'Check My Results' on the main screen toolbar. This screen will give you immediate feedback on your progress in any of the topics. You can choose to view the results for all syllabi, or a single syllabus.

You will be shown the number of questions that you have attempted in each level, and the percentage of these that you have answered correctly. You may also select a 'date range', to narrow the time period from which your results are selected. Simply click on the date boxes to select a starting and finishing date for the results you wish to view.

NOTE: This function will only work if you are logged into Auralia, and recording your results.

## The 'File' Menu

### Changing your details

Click on the 'File -> Change Your Details' menu to change your details. You will be able to change your password, class and voicetype by selecting the options provided. If you are changing your password, note that you will be required to type your new password twice.

NOTE: This function will only work if you are logged into Auralia, and recording your results.

## **Lesson Screens**

Lesson screens relating to each topic can also be accessed using the 'Lessons' menu on the main screen.

## **Drill Toolbar**

The toolbars that is active when using the drills gives you certain controls while practising and or testing.

### **Changing Levels**

Depending on your current level, you can move either forward or back, one level at a time. The current level is displayed on the left hand side of the toolbar.

### **Scores**

Your current score tally and percentage is shown in the middle of the toolbar. This is reset each time you change level or topic.

### **Volume Control**

The button on the far right of the toolbar will bring up the Windows mixer or volume control when clicked upon. This will allow you to change volume settings without leaving Auralia.

### **Tempo**

The tempo bar on the allows you to change the tempo of the current example. For instance, if you were doing a rhythmic dictation exercise, and it was a little too fast, you could slow it down by using the slide bar. The metronome marking is indicated on the left hand side of the toolbar, and the note shows the beat value.

# MIDI Sound

## Introduction

The MIDI setup screen allows you to control the way Auralia uses MIDI in your system. From the main menu, select 'Administration -> Sound and Pictures -> MIDI sound' to open the MIDI setup screen.

You can have a MIDI output device set within Auralia, or use the default device that is selected within Windows.

## MIDI Output Device

Choose your MIDI Output device from those listed. Click on the 'Test MIDI Playback' button to test the device.

If you are running Windows Vista, this is the best way to choose your MIDI output device.

## MIDI Output Device set in the Multimedia Control Panel

If you choose this option, Auralia will use the output device that is selected in the Multimedia Control Panel. To choose your MIDI output device, click the button 'Open the Multimedia Control Panel'. Follow the instructions below, depending on your version of Windows.

### Windows 95/98/NT

- Click on the MIDI tab.
- Check that the correct instrument is selected under 'Single Instrument'.

### Windows ME, 2000 or XP

- Click on the Audio tab.
- Check that the correct instrument is selected under 'MIDI Music Playback' -> 'Default Device'.

Regardless of the version of Windows, you will probably have a number of different instruments available. Instruments with descriptions such as 'MIDI Output', 'MPU-401', 'MIDI UART' or 'External MIDI Device' are typically only used if you have an external keyboard or sound module.

We recommend avoiding wavetable synthesis devices if possible, as their rhythmical accuracy is often poor.

Note that in Windows Vista, it is quite difficult to select your default Windows MIDI Output device. We recommend choosing it directly in Auralia, as described above.

## General MIDI Reset

By default, Auralia plays a General MIDI Reset upon startup, to ensure that you hear the correct question sounds. Depending on your MIDI configuration, this may cause problems. Uncheck this box if you wish to disable this feature.

## Latency Setting

Check this option if you are using a software synthesizer that is not responding quickly enough when using topics such as Rhythm Imitation. Instead of using MIDI sounds to play your taps, wave sounds will be used.

If you select this option, please check the balance between your MIDI (or synthesizer) sound and Wave sound output in your Windows mixer.

## MIDI Input

If you have an external MIDI device, such as a MIDI Keyboard or MIDI Wind Controller, you can use this for input in certain topics. Ensure that the box marked 'Enable MIDI input' is checked, and choose your input device from the drop down box.

If your device is working, and Auralia is receiving the MIDI notes, you will see the 'MIDI Input Indicator' flash as you play notes.

## MIDI Through

If you have a MIDI Input enabled, you can also choose to have notes from your MIDI Input device passed through to the MIDI output device. Depending on your MIDI configuration, you may need to select this to ensure that you hear notes when they are played on your external MIDI device.

## MIDI Volume Levels

You may wish to change the balance of volume between MIDI sound (questions) and Wave sound ('correct' and 'incorrect' sounds).

- Click on the small speaker icon located on the Auralia toolbar. This will load the Windows volume control.
- Adjust the sliders for the 'Wave' device and 'MIDI' / 'Synthesizer' device.
- If these devices are not available, click on the 'Options -> Properties' menu. From this screen, you should be able to enable the devices you require using the list of available volume controls. Click on OK.
- Close the mixer and test the new levels in Auralia.

To make further adjustments, repeat the above steps.

## **MIDI Emphasis**

All rhythm topics have an emphasis played on the major beats of each bar. You can increase or decrease the amount of emphasis on these beats by moving the slide bar with the mouse. You can also make the metronome louder or softer.

Use the 'Test' button to hear an example of rhythm played with the metronome.

Similarly you can increase the emphasis on the bass line in chord progression and cadences topics, by moving the chords slide bar. The test button will play an example cadence with the emphasis you have chosen.

You can also change the amount of emphasis played on the major beats during a melody. Increase or decrease the amount of emphasis on these beats by moving the slide bar with the mouse.



# Wave Sound and Pictures

## Correct and Incorrect Sounds

Wave sounds can be played at certain times during a session. However, these sounds are only possible if you have sound hardware capable of wave form audio (e.g. SoundBlaster, SoundMax etc). If you are using pure MIDI equipment, it is unlikely that these features will work.

To open the wave sound setup screen, select 'Administration -> Sound and Pictures -> Wave sound'.

### Play Startup Sound

If this option is selected, a sound will play when Auralia is loaded. This sound cannot be changed.

### Play Closing Sound

If this option is selected, a sound will play when Auralia is closed. This sound cannot be changed.

### Play sounds for a correct answer

If this option is selected, when a student gets a question correct a correct sound will be played. The sound will change each time, chosen randomly from a selection.

### Play sounds for an incorrect answer

If this option is selected, when a student gets a question incorrect an incorrect sound will be played. The sound will change each time, chosen randomly from a selection.

## Pictures

When you submit an answer, the screen that informs you whether you answered the question correctly or incorrectly also has a picture showing.

You can choose to have a simple tick or cross, or have a picture chosen randomly from the full selection. The full selection contains cartoon type pictures, and may be considered suitable for younger students.

# Using your Microphone

Auralia has pitch recognition technology which can listen to your singing and work out which note you have sung. This is used in a number of topics, please refer to the complete topic list for further details.

There are a few points to note when using your microphone within Auralia.

## Setting up the Microphone

In the Windows mixer, the microphone device needs to be selected for recording. Load the mixer by double clicking on the speaker icon in the group of icons in the bottom right of the screen, right of the Windows Start menu. Change to recording properties by selecting Properties from the Options menu, and then selecting 'Adjust volume for: recording.' The Microphone device should be checked (have a tick next to it), in the list of volume controls. Then press OK. The 'Select' box for the microphone device must be checked; if it is not, click on 'Select' to check it.

In the Playback Options, it is best if the microphone is muted while using Auralia. However, you should uncheck the muted checkbox and speak into your microphone to test that the volume is not too loud or too soft. Both of these conditions will lower the accuracy of the note recognition in Auralia and may make Auralia think your answer is incorrect.

## Singing hard syllables

Pitch recognition works best if you sing long but detached notes. You should not sing legato (notes joined together) as Auralia will not recognise some of the notes you sing. It is best if you start each syllable with a 'Ma' or 'La' sound; other sounds may make Auralia miss your notes or detect the wrong note. Take your time when singing back your answers; there is no time limit.

# Security and Record Keeping

Auralia is capable of recording all results, allowing you to track individual student progress. Results can be printed out, and you may also reset each student's scores when necessary.

## Quick Start

If you want to get started quickly with the record keeping features, follow these steps!

- 1) Enter your administrators and teachers into the program - use the 'Administration -> Users -> Maintenance' screen. You must have at least one administrator to use the record keeping features.
- 2) Enter your classes into the program using the 'Administration -> Classes -> Maintenance' screen. You may not need to add any extra classes - Auralia will always have the Default Class available.
- 3) Create tests for your classes using the 'Administration -> Tests -> Maintenance' screen. You may not wish to setup tests at this stage; this can be done at a later date.
- 4) Enable the security and record keeping system. Use the 'Administration -> Security and Record Keeping' screen. Turn the option 'Use Names and Password' on.
- 5) Let students use the software! At this stage, when a student uses Auralia, they will be prompted for a name and password.

The first time a student uses Auralia, the student will be taken to an auto registration screen where they enter their name, choose a password, a class and a voice type. At a later stage, you can view and edit all the enrolled students using the 'Administration -> Users -> Maintenance' screen.

Students who use the auto registration screen are given student level access only.

If you have created a test for the class in which a student is in, a message will inform them that a test is available when they first start the program.

- 6) You can now view your students results using the various reports on the 'Administration -> Reports -> Practise Results' screen.

## What is a User

If you wish to record your students' progress, they will each need to be 'enrolled' into Auralia and given a login name and password. Each student will also need to belong to a class. See the section 'User Administration' for further details.

## What is a Class

A class is simply a grouping of students. They are very much like the classes found in a typical school environment. If you are using Auralia in a school, we recommend that you simply replicate your existing school class structure within Auralia.

As a private teacher, you may wish to setup your own class structure to group your students. Auralia has a built in class, called the 'Default Class', which you can add your students to if you wish.

There are particular options that you can set for each class, giving you the flexibility to tailor Auralia for different groups of students. See the section 'Class Administration' for further details.

# Security

Auralia has a security and record keeping system which when enabled provides users with different levels of access to the program. This screen allows you to set the security level that you wish to use and thereby define whether students, teachers and administrators will be asked for their password upon entering the software, and whether their scores will be recorded.

To open the security and record keeping setup screen, select 'Administration -> Security and Record Keeping'.

The most secure option, and the option that is highly recommended when more than one person is using the software, is 'Logins Enabled - Use names and passwords'. This allows record keeping for multiple users. To make one of the security settings active, simply click on the button next to it, and set the relevant options as described below.

## No security

You and your students will not be required to enter a name or a password to enter the program, or to enter this administration section. No statistics will be recorded, and anybody who uses the program will be able to access all parts of the administration.

## Password protection for administration functions

You will not be required to enter a name or password to enter the program, but you will be prompted for a password when entering any administration screen. You are required to type in an administration password in the box labelled 'Administration Password'.

## Automatic login of a Single User

You will not be required to login, but your statistics will be recorded under the username selected from the list (you must have setup a user). You are required to type in the users password on this screen. Regardless of the security level that the user has (Student, Teacher or Administrator), when using this feature, Administrator access is granted.

All other settings that the user has (class, voicetype etc) will be used, allowing tests to be taken, and singing topics to be used correctly.

## Logins Enabled - Use names and passwords

This is the most secure and flexible setting. The software will use a name and password to identify individual users, record statistics under their name, and uses their access level to grant permission to various parts of the program. When the program is started, all users are asked for their name and password.

Before you can enable this option, you must add an 'Administrator' user to the system, which is explained in the following section '*User Administration*'.

# Users

The user maintenance screen ('Administration -> Users -> Maintenance') allows you to add new users to your configuration, and change details of existing users, such as their passwords. For each student or administrator using the software, their name, password, class, voice type, and an access level is recorded.

By default, ALL the users enrolled are shown. By clicking on the box labelled 'Show only Users in class', you may filter the list to show a single class of users. Simply select the class of users that you wish to view from the dropdown box. The user maintenance screen allows you to add new users to your Auralia configuration and change details of existing users, such as their passwords.

## User Administration

### Access Levels

An access level sets the functions that any particular user may perform within the software. There are three levels of access. Student access is the most common; it allows people to use the program, but does not allow any administration or configuration of the system. Teacher access allows access to statistics, but not to configuration, class, user or test maintenance. Administrator access allows all of these functions.

NOTE: Both Teacher and Administrator access levels DO allow use of the drills, as well as access to the various administration screens.

### Adding a New User

To add a new user, click the "New User" button. Enter the user's name in the User Name column, and then set a password in the Password column. In the Class column, select which class the user belongs to.

If this user is a teacher or an administrator, select their level of access from the options provided. You must have a user with administrator access if using names and passwords in Auralia. If such a user does not exist, you will not be able to use the configuration and administration functions on the Administration menu. You will then be LOCKED OUT of the program. If this happens, contact Rising Software for further assistance.

Finally, choose the user's voice type (soprano, alto, tenor or bass) and whether the user should get feedback when they get an answer correct.

When you are finished, press the Enter key. Your new user will then be ready. If you don't want to save your new user, press the Escape key.

### Editing an existing user

Locate the user in the user list box, click on him/her, then click on the item you wish to change and make your changes. (See Adding a new user, above). Your changes will then

be saved automatically. If you don't want to save your changes, press the Escape key on your keyboard.

### **Deleting a user**

Select the user in the user listing (by clicking on him or her), then click "Delete User". The user will then be removed from the system. You cannot remove yourself from the system.

### **Clearing Results**

The box 'Clear Results for this User' allows you to delete practise and test results for the selected user. You can also delete the results for a single test that the user has attempted.

If you wish to clear all the results, use the buttons in the box 'Clear Results for ALL Users'.

### **Restricting the List of Users**

By default, ALL the users enrolled are shown. By clicking on the box labelled 'Show only Users in class', you may filter the list to show a single class of users. Simply select the class of users that you wish to view from the dropdown box.

### **Importing Users**

If you already have a list of users, you can import them by clicking the 'Import Students' button. Your user names need to be in a comma separated text file. The format is shown on screen after you click the button.

## **User Options**

There are various options that can be set for users on the 'Administration -> Users -> Options' screen.

### **Automatic User Registration**

If enabled, new users can automatically enrol themselves into the program database. (If this option is disabled, an administrator must add each user individually using User Maintenance) If a user enrolls themselves, they are automatically given Student access, and thus will not have access to teacher or administrator functions. It is recommended that you enable this option in a school environment to avoid adding each user individually to your system.

Note: This option only takes effect if the security setting 'Logins Enabled - Use Names and Password' is selected.

### **Allowing Users to Change their Settings**

If this option is enabled, users can change their own password, class and voice type. If this is disabled, the user will not be allowed to change these details.

Note: This option only takes effect if the security setting 'Logins Enabled - Use Names and

Password' is selected.

If this option is enabled, Auralia will allow people using the program to change their password, class and voice type. If this is disabled, the user will not be allowed to change these details.

NOTE: If Auralia is does not have '*Use names and passwords*' enabled (see *Security & Logging In*), this option will have no effect.

## Single User Settings

This screen ('Administration -> Users -> Single User Settings') provides options for when the software is being run in a single user environment. (ie. not on a network with multiple users) The settings on this page will only take effect if you are using the security option 'No security'.

### Voice Type

If you are using the software in this environment then you may select your voice from the drop-down box provided. This will ensure that you receive singing / microphone questions in the correct vocal range.

### Show message for correct answers

This setting allows you to move on to the next question immediately, if you get the question correct.



# Class Administration

The class maintenance screen ('Administration -> Classes -> Maintenance') allows you to add classes to your configuration. You can also edit the settings of existing classes. For each class, the name of the class, it's teacher, it's default syllabus, and a number of other settings are stored.

## Class Administration

### Adding a New Class

To add a new class, click on the "New Class" button. You will then be able to enter the name and teacher of the new class, and set the options. Click on the 'Class Name' column and enter the name of the class.

#### Syllabus

Choose the default syllabus that the class will use in the 'Syllabus' column. You can allow students to change the syllabus that they are using during practise by clicking the box in the column 'Allow students to change Syllabus'.

#### Retry Questions

Students may retry questions which they answer incorrectly whilst practising if the box 'Allow Students to Retry Questions' is ticked.

#### Professor

If this option is enabled, users will be advised to move up and down levels based on thresholds that you setup on the Professor setup screen.

#### Teacher

Select the name of the teacher for this class. This is the name that will appear when you print out reports for this class.

#### Enable Metronome

Checking this box allows the metronome to be used in topics such as Rhythm Dictation and Melodic Dictation.

#### Allow students to disable Metronome

If the metronome is enabled, and you turn this option on, students can enable or disable the metronome while they are practising the relevant topics.

#### Use the onscreen keyboard

Auralia features an onscreen keyboard, which can be used to enter the answer in certain topics. Enable or disable this option as required.

### Use external MIDI keyboard

If you have an external midi keyboard and wish to use it for answer input, select this option. External MIDI input is only supported in certain topics.

### Use onscreen guitar

Auralia features an onscreen guitar, which can be used to enter the answer in certain topics. Enable or disable this option as required.

## **Editing an existing class**

Locate the class in the class listing, click on it, then make your changes (see “Adding a new class”, above). Your changes will be saved automatically. If you don’t want to save your changes, press Escape key.

## **Deleting a class**

Select the class from the list, then click ‘Delete Class’. Note that if you delete a class, all users in that class will be reassigned to the ‘Default Class’.

## **Copying a class**

You can create a copy of a class by clicking the ‘Copy Class’ button. All class settings are copied. The new copied class will not contain any students or results.

## **Clearing Results**

The box ‘Clear Results for this Class’ allows you to delete practise and test results for the users within the selected class.

## **Minimum Levels and Topic Settings**

This screen (‘Administration -> Classes -> Minimum Levels’) allows you to set options for topic, and minimum levels for each class. By setting a minimum level for a class, you stop students from practising any level lower than the level you have set.

## **Topics**

You can choose to turn certain topics off for each class. This allows you to disable topics that aren’t appropriate for the class, or to channel your students into areas that you feel need more practise. To disable a topic, select it from the box marked ‘Topic’, and uncheck the box marked ‘Active Topic’. To enable the topic, ensure that the box is checked.

You can also change the number of times users in the class can retry each question. Select the number of retries from the ‘Retries allowed’ box.

Neither of these settings affect tests.

## Minimum Levels

Minimum levels are setup on a syllabus basis. A general 'Level 4' setting isn't possible, as some syllabi may have six levels in a particular topic, while others may have a different number of levels, some fewer and some greater.

To select a minimum level, select your topic from the 'Topic Box' and the syllabus you would like to set them for from the 'Syllabus' box. The box marked 'Minimum Level' will then show you the levels that exist for that particular topic and syllabus.

Select your minimum level from the box marked 'Minimum Level'.

## The Professor

When students are practicing, and achieving a high percentage of correct answers, the program will suggest that they move to the next level. Similarly, if they are achieving a low percentage, the program will suggest that they move to a lower level. This screen allows you to set the percentages needed to move to a higher or lower level.

Select a class from the box marked 'Class'. If the box marked 'Allow users to ignore professor' is checked, when the professor makes a suggestion, students may click "No thanks" to ignore the advice. If this option is disabled, students **MUST** change level when the professor suggests it.

You must now choose whether to have the same settings for all topics, or individual settings per topic.

### Same Settings

Click on the button marked 'Use the SAME settings for all topics'.

Enter the percentage of questions the user must exceed for the professor to suggest moving to the next level. You may also enter the percentage to move to the previous level; when students score lower than this percentage, the professor will suggest they move to the previous level.

Finally, you may choose how many questions students must answer before the professor will give them any advice.

### Individual Settings

Click on the button marked 'Use INDIVIDUAL settings for all topics' and select the topic you wish to change from the drop-down list.

Enter the percentage of questions the user must exceed for the professor to suggest moving to the next level. You may also enter the percentage to move to the previous level; when students score lower than this percentage, the professor will suggest they move to the previous level.

Finally, you may choose how many questions students must answer before the professor will give them any advice.

# Syllabus Setup

In Auralia, a syllabus is a group of levels. Generally, a syllabus will have levels in each topic, but it is possible for a syllabus to not have any levels in a particular topic.

Syllabi make it possible to tailor the content of Auralia to suit varying age groups and ability levels. They also allow the content within Auralia to be used for varying examination standards around the world.

Note that you cannot modify any of the syllabuses that are included with the software. If you wish to change the settings or levels of one of the provided syllabuses, make a copy of the syllabus. The copied syllabus will be able to be modified. You can then set the copied syllabus as your default in the Class Administration.

## Syllabus Administration

The syllabus administration screen ('Administration -> Syllabus and Levels -> Syllabus Setup') allows you to add and delete syllabi from your configuration.

### Adding a new syllabus

To add a new syllabus, click on the 'New Syllabus' button. You will then be able to enter the name of the syllabus. There are a number of options for each syllabus.

#### Country

Select the country from which the syllabus originates.

#### Rhythm Terminology

Choose between US (half, quarter notes etc) and UK (minims, crotchets etc) style terminology. You can choose both, in which case, when relevant, both styles will be used - Auralia will randomly choose between them before each question.

Note that this option does not change the terminology shown on the level selection screens, that is handled under 'Language and Terminology'.

#### Description

Enter a description of the syllabus. This will appear on level selection screens when the syllabus is chosen.

#### Instrument Choice

You can choose between a single instrument sound or random instrument sounds for your questions. The random sounds have been chosen to ensure that in a drill context, each sound will allow the student to clearly hear;

- the duration of the note
- the pitch of the note without any strong overtones

## Instrument Sounds

When you are selecting a single MIDI instrument sound for all questions, please consider the following points;

- when held for longer note values, will the sound clearly represent the duration of the note? For example, a clean guitar sound will have an attack, and then the note will fade making the duration of the note less obvious, whereas a flute sound will be held clearly for the full duration of the note.
- does the sound have strong overtones that may make the pitch of the note more difficult to hear? For example, some MIDI organ sounds have very strong octave or fifth overtones

## Metronome Sounds

Choose the drum sound for the start of a bar, and the sound for a regular beat.

## **Deleting a syllabus**

Select the syllabus from the list, then click 'Delete Syllabus'.

Note: All the levels and results for that syllabus will also be deleted.

## **Copying a syllabus**

It can be useful to make copies of a syllabus. For example, you may create a syllabus for one group of students and then want to modify it slightly to suit another group.

Select the syllabus from the list, then click 'Copy Syllabus'. The copy of the syllabus will appear in the list of syllabi.

## **Exporting a Syllabus**

You can export a syllabus by clicking on the 'Export Syllabus' button. The syllabus will be outputted to a file of your choosing, which can then be imported by others who use the software. Any customised content (Chord, Scales etc) that is not provided by Rising Software will also be exported. For example, if you customise one of the chords or scales that is provided by Rising Software, those changes WILL NOT be exported. However, if you added a new chord or scale and used that in your syllabus, then the new chord or scale WILL be exported.

Note that if you are not running the same version of the software as the person who is going to import the syllabus then you will have problems. Ensure that you are running the latest version by checking at <http://www.risingsoftware.com/>.

## **Importing a Syllabus**

Click on the 'Import Syllabus' button to import a syllabus. You will need to choose the file. Note that customised content may also be imported (Chords, Scales etc).

Note that if you are not running the same version of the software as the person who created

the test then you will have problems. Ensure that you are running the latest version by checking at <http://www.risingsoftware.com/>.

## Syllabus Levels

Levels are added to a syllabus one topic at a time. Enter the Syllabus Administration ('Administration -> Syllabus and Levels -> Syllabus Setup') screen, and click on the 'Syllabus Levels' tab.

Select your syllabus and topic from the dropdown boxes. The levels for the syllabus and topic will appear in the 'Topic Levels' box.

### Adding a level

To add a level for the syllabus and topic, simply click on the 'New Level' button. There are a number of options for each level

#### Test Only:

Select this if you do not wish to have the level available for general practise use.

#### Description:

Enter a description of the level . This will appear on level selection screens when the level is chosen.

### Copying a level

Click on the 'Copy Level' button to make a copy of a level. This can be useful when creating levels that have cumulative content.

### Editing the level

The level has now been created, but it has no content. It will appear in level selection screens, but you will not be able to use it. You need to add content to the level - click on the 'Edit Level' button.

The level editing screen for the topic will open up, and you are free to define the content of the level as you wish. Click on 'Ok' when you are finished. Refer to each topics help screen for further details regarding the various options contained in each topic.

### Deleting a level

Select the level from the list, then click 'Delete Level'. Note: All the results for that level will also be deleted.

### Level Order

Use the 'Move level up' and 'Move level down' buttons to change the order of the levels.

# Tests

A test is a sequence of questions taken from various levels of various topics. When you create a test, you choose which topics will be tested, which levels in those topics, and how many questions will be asked from each. You also control the order in which the topics are tested.

When students log in, they will be informed if there any tests available for their class. They can start a test by clicking on the 'Start Test' button on the toolbar. You can view students' test results in the Administration menu under Reports.

Note that tests can only be taken if you have logged into Auralia - see the previous section 'Security'.

## Test Administration

The test administration screen ('Administration -> Tests') allows you to add and delete tests from your configuration. For each test, you must specify a test name and set a number of options.

### Adding a new Test

To add a new test, click on the "New Test" button. You will then be able to enter the name of the test in the grid, under the column marked 'Test Name'. There are a number of options available for each test:

#### Correct Incorrect Feedback

When doing a test, the facility for students to be told whether they answered the question correctly or incorrectly can be disabled.

#### Allow test resumption

If this option is enabled, students will be able to stop in the middle of a test, and resume the test from where they left off at a later date.

#### Allow tempo changes

The tempo bar is active in most topics, allowing students to speed up or slow down the examples. The can be disabled this in a test if you wish.

#### Number of test attempts

If you are wanting students to take a test multiple times, instead of resetting students results, you can simply allow a higher number of test attempts. This will allow you to compare the results from each attempt.

Tests have to be assigned to various classes, listed under the 'Classes' box. If you would like students in a particular class to be able to take a test, select the class in the 'Classes' box. You can select multiple classes.

### **Deleting a test**

Select the test from the list, then press the “Delete Test” button.

NOTE: Any results that were available for the test will be lost.

### **Copying a test**

Click on the ‘Copy Test’ button to create an exact copy of a test. Results are not copied.

### **Exporting a Test**

You can export a test by clicking on the ‘Export Test’ button. The test will be outputted to a file of your choosing, which can then be imported by others who use the software. If the test that you are exporting contains a customised syllabus then that syllabus will also be exported.

Note that if you are not running the same version of the software as the person who is going to import the test then you will have problems. Ensure that you are running the latest version by checking at <http://www.risingsoftware.com/>.

### **Importing a Test**

Click on the ‘Import Test’ button to import a test. You will need to choose the file. Note that syllabi may also be imported, if the test that you are importing contains a customised syllabus.

Note that if you are not running the same version of the software as the person who created the test then you will have problems. Ensure that you are running the latest version by checking at <http://www.risingsoftware.com/>.

### **Clear results**

To reset all the results for a test, select it from the list and press the “Clear Results” button.



# Content and Topic Customisation

## Language

Choose the language that you would like to use on the language screen ('Administration -> Language and Terminology -> Language') from the options shown. It is highly recommended that you restart the program after changing language, to ensure that all text is translated properly.

## Terminology

You can change the way certain musical items are described on the Terminology setup screen ('Administration -> Language and Terminology -> Terminology').

The settings on this screen are general settings only, and apply to level selection screens. They do NOT change the type of terminology that you see in the drills. If you wish to change the terminology within the drills, you must change the terminology for the particular syllabus.

## Notes

If you wish to use British terminology instead of American terminology check the box marked 'Use the term "crotchet" instead of "quarter note" etc'. This will apply throughout the program.

## Chord Progressions

Choose between Figured Bass (I, I6, I64) or Letters (I, Ib, Ic) etc.

## Scale Degrees

You can have scale degrees shown as 'Tonic, Dominant', 'First, Fifth' or '1, 5'.

## Chord Editor

The chord editor ('Administration -> Topics -> Chords') allows you to add new chords to Auralia. These chords can be used in the Chord Recognition, Chord Singing, Jazz Chords and Jazz Chord Singing topics.

### Adding New Chords

If you wish to add a chord, click on the 'New Chord' button. You then need to enter a name for your chord, and click in the notes of the chord, on the staff marked 'Chord'. You may also wish to enter a 'Voiced' version of the chord, for use in topics such as Jazz Chords.

As you enter the chord, you can hear either version of the chord by using the 'Play this chord' buttons.

If you wish the chord to be available in the Chord Recognition topic, ensure that the box

marked 'Use in Chord Recognition' is checked.

### Deleting Chords

To delete a chord, click on the 'Delete Chord' button. Certain chords cannot be deleted.

### Use in Chord Recognition Option

Please note that the voiced versions of the chords are only used in the Jazz Chords topic, whilst the stacked versions are used for other chord topics. Check the 'Use in Chord Recognition' box if you wish this chord to be used in the chord recognition topic. There are some chords which you may not wish to be included in this topic as the chord symbol may not clearly describe all the implied notes that would occur in a stacked version of the chord. One example of this is a 7#9 chord, which when played or viewed as a stacked chord would include additional altered notes that the chord symbol does not define.

**NOTE: To ensure correct transposition of your chords, ensure that you enter them using 'C' as the tonic note. For example, if you are entering a Major 1st Inversion chord, the root note would be E above C.**

## Scale Editor

The scale editor ('Administration -> Topics -> Scales') allows you to add new scales to Auralia. These scales can be used in the Scales, Scale Singing, Jazz Scales and Jazz Scale Singing topics.

### Adding New Scales

If you wish to add a scale, click on the 'New Scale' button. You then need to enter a name for your scale, and click in the notes of the scale, on the staff marked 'Scale'. As you enter the scale, you can hear it by clicking the 'Play this scale' button.

### Deleting Scales

To delete a scale, click on the 'Delete Scale' button. Certain scales cannot be deleted.

**NOTE: To ensure correct transposition of your scales, ensure that you enter them as if they had a key signature with no sharps or flats.**

# Results and Reports

The reports screen allows you to find out information on all of the program's users and observe your students' progress in both tests and practice. Auralia can only record statistics and track users and classes if the '*Use Names and Passwords*' security option is being used.

All of the report screens can be found under the menu 'Administration -> Reports'.

Detailed information regarding operation of each topic drill can be found in the online Help.

## Lists and Settings Reports

These reports allow you to see lists of your users, classes, tests and syllabi. You can also see things such as class minimum levels and settings. Select the report type from the box marked 'Report type', and pick your options from the 'Report Options' box. Click on the 'Preview Report' button to view and print the report.

### User Details

This report will show you lists of your currently enrolled users. You can choose to view all of your users, or only those in a certain class.

### Class Settings

This report will show a list of your classes, showing the various options that are set for each.

### Class Minimum Levels

This report will show you any minimum levels that have been set for your classes.

### Test Details

This report will list your tests, showing what classes they apply to, and the various settings.

### Test Entries

This report will list all the entries within your test, showing the details of each entry.

### Syllabus

This report will list your syllabi, showing the settings that each syllabus has. You can also choose to display all the levels within the syllabus.

## Practise Results Reports

These reports allow you to see the practise results for each user. Select the report type from the box marked 'Report type', and pick your options from the 'Report Options' box. Click

on the 'Preview Report' button to view and print the report.

### **User Results - Overall Score**

This report combines the scores from all the topics in all Syllabi, giving an overall grade.

### **User Results - Overall Score by Syllabus**

This report shows your combined users results from each syllabus, combining all topics for that syllabus.

### **User Results - Overall Score by Topic**

This report shows your combined users results for each topic. The results for each syllabus and its set of levels are combined.

### **User Results - Detailed**

This report will show your users results, for each syllabus, and each topic within that syllabus. It is the most detailed report that is available for users results.

## **Test Results and Status Reports**

This screen allows you to view test results and status. Select the report type from the box marked 'Report type', and pick your options from the 'Report Options' box. Click on the 'Preview Report' button to view and print the report.

### **Test Results**

This report shows your test results. You can choose to be shown an overall score, or the score for each entry.

### **Test Status**

This report shows which students in a class have taken the test, and how many times they have attempted it.

## **Report Options**

This screen allows you to select your preferred paper size. Select from either 'A4' or 'Letter' - this option is stored for later sessions.

# Topic Descriptions

This section gives you a brief description of each topic. The level structures for each syllabus can be viewed within Auralia, using the reporting functions.

## Absolute Pitch

In Absolute pitch, pitches are played, and you are asked to identify the exact notes that have been played, or the frequency (sine waves may also be used). You may also be asked to sing back a given note, in a certain octave.

## Advanced Progressions

In Advanced Progressions, 4 part harmonic progressions are played, and you are asked to identify the chords. You will need to identify the chord quality, as well as the position. Chromatic and mixture chords are included.

## Cadences

In Cadences, one or two cadences are played, and you are asked to identify them. Cadences may be played with or without a preceeding melody.

## Chord Comparison

In Chord Comparison, two chords are played. You may have to indicate whether the chords are different, or click in the second chord on a staff.

## Chord Imitation

In Chord Imitation, a chord is played, and you are asked to sing it back. The chord name may be shown on screen.

## Chord Progressions

In Chord Progressions, 4 part harmonic progressions are played, and you are asked to identify the chords. You will need to identify the chord quality, as well as the position.

## Chord Recognition

In Chord Recognition, a chord is played, and you are asked to identify it. A piano keyboard or guitar fretboard may be visible on screen (this can be disabled by an Administrator), allowing you to enter your answer by clicking on the notes. The first note of the chord will be shown, and you simply have to click in the notes of the chord.

If you have an external MIDI device such as a keyboard or wind controller, you may also

play the notes of the chord in.

## Chord Singing

In Chord Singing, a note is played, and you are asked to sing the notes of a certain chord above or below it. The required chord and direction are shown on screen.

## Cluster Chords

In Cluster Chords, a sequence of chords is played, and you have to click in the notes of each chord. The chords are built on the interval of the second and fourth. Each successive chord has one extra note from the previous. So, if you choose to practise 3 chords, the third chord will have four notes, including the starting note.

## Counterpoint Singing

In Counterpoint Singing, a short two part phrase is played. You will have to sing either the upper or lower notes of the phrase.

## Forms

In forms, a melody is played that has a certain form, or structure. You are asked to identify the form of the melody.

## Interval Comparison

In Interval Comparison, two intervals are played, and you are asked to identify which interval is larger or smaller.

## Interval Imitation

In Interval Imitation, an interval is played, and you are asked to sing the interval back. The required interval may be shown on screen.

## Interval Recognition

In Interval Recognition, an interval is played, and you are asked to identify it. A piano keyboard or guitar fretboard may be visible on screen (this can be disabled by an Administrator), allowing you to enter your answer by clicking on the keys. The first note of the interval will be shown, and you simply have to click on the second note of the interval.

If you have an external MIDI device such as a keyboard or wind controller, you may also play the second note of the interval in.

## Interval Singing

In Interval Singing, a note is played, and you are asked to sing the note a certain interval above or below it. The required interval and direction are shown on screen.

## Jazz Chords

In Jazz Chords, a chord is played, and you are asked to identify it. A piano keyboard or guitar fretboard may be visible on screen (this can be disabled by an Administrator), allowing you to enter your answer by clicking on the keys. The first note of the chord will be shown, and you simply have to click in the notes of the chord.

If you have an external MIDI device such as a keyboard or wind controller, you may also play the notes of the chord in.

## Jazz Chord Imitation

In Jazz Chord Imitation, a chord is played, and you are asked to sing it back. The chord name may be shown on screen. The required chord and direction are shown on screen. Voiced chords are not used.

## Jazz Chord Singing

In Jazz Chord Singing, a note is played, and you are asked to sing the notes of a certain chord above or below it. The required chord and direction are shown on screen. Note that unlike the Jazz Chords topic, voiced chords are cannot be used.

## Jazz Forms

In Jazz Forms, a short piece is played that has a certain form, or structure. You are asked to identify the form of the piece.

## Jazz Progressions

In Jazz Progressions a progression is played, using a variety of instruments. You are asked to identify the progression by entering the individual chords, or from a selection of answers.

## Jazz Scales

In Jazz Scales, a scale is played, and you are asked to identify it. A piano keyboard or guitar fretboard may be visible on screen (this can be disabled by an Administrator), allowing you to enter your answer by clicking on the keys. The first note of the scale will be shown, and you simply have to click in the other notes of the scale.

If you have an external MIDI device such as a keyboard or wind controller, you may also play the other notes of the scale in.

## **Jazz Scale Singing**

In Jazz Scale Singing, a note is played, and you are asked to sing the notes of a certain scale above or below it. The required scale and direction are shown on screen.

## **Melodic Comparison**

In Melodic Comparison, two melodies are played. The second melody may have been altered in some way from the first, and you will have to identify those alterations, or identify whether the melody has changed.

## **Melodic Dictation**

In Melodic Dictation, a melody will be played, and you will have to enter the melody on a score.

## **Meter Recognition**

In Meter Recognition, you will be played a rhythm or a melody, and asked to identify the meter (time signature) of the example.

## **Modulation**

In Modulation, a two part example is played that will modulate from one key to the other. You will be asked to identify the type of modulation (eg. Major Tonic - Relative Minor) or identify the final key of the example.

## **Note Recognition**

In Note Recognition, a two or three note chord is played. You are asked to sing either the top or bottom note (for a two note chord), or the top, middle, bottom or tonic note (for a three note chord).

## **Pitch Comparison**

In Pitch Comparison, you are asked to compare the pitch of two notes. You will be asked if the second note is higher, lower or the same as the first. A melody may be played, in which case the first note is the first note of the melody and the second note is the last note of the melody.

## **Pitch Dictation**

In Pitch Dictation, a melody is played, and you are asked to identify the pitch of each note. You do this by either clicking the notes in on the staff, or by selecting the scale degree for each note.



## Pitch Imitation

In Pitch Imitation, a note will played, and you will have to sing back the same note. The required note may be shown on screen.

## Pulse Tapping

In Pulse Tapping, a rhythm is played, and you have to tap back the pulse of the rhythm in correct time. For example, in 4/4, you would need to tap on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th crotchet beats. In 6/8, you would tap on the 1st and 2nd beats (the first and fourth quavers / eighth notes).

## Rhythm Comparison

In Rhythm Comparison, two rhythms are played. The second rhythm may have been altered in some way from the first, and you will have to identify those alterations, or identify whether the rhythm has changed.

## Rhythm Dictation

In Rhythm Dictation, a rhythmic or melodic excerpt will be played, and you will have to enter the rhythm on a score.

## Rhythm Elements

In Rhythm Elements, an one beat long rhythm pattern is played, preceded by a two beat count in. You have to identify the rhythm from a given selection.

## Rhythm Element Dictation

In Rhythm Element Dictation, a rhythmic pattern is played. You are asked to identify the rhythm of the example using rhythmic blocks; these have the duration of one beat. The basis for this topic is Rhythm Elements.

## Rhythm Imitation

In Rhythm Imitation, an rhythm is played, and you are asked to tap it back using your keyboard. You may also tap the rhythm in using an external MIDI device such as a keyboard or wind controller, if connected.

## Rhythm Styles

In Rhythm Styles, a short musical excerpt is played, and you are asked to identify its style.

## **Scales**

In Scales, a scale is played, and you are asked to identify it. A piano keyboard or guitar fretboard may be visible on screen (this can be disabled by an Administrator), allowing you to enter your answer by clicking on the keys. The first note of the scale will be shown, and you simply have to click in the notes of the scale.

If you have an external MIDI device such as a keyboard or wind controller, you may also play the notes of the scale in.

## **Scale Singing**

In Scale Singing, a note is played, and you are asked to sing the notes of a certain scale above or below it. The required scale and direction are shown on screen.

## **Sight Singing**

Sight Singing requires you to sing back a given melody using your microphone.

## **Tuning**

In Tuning, two notes are played. The second note will be out of tune, by varying amounts. You will have to detect whether the second note is sharp or flat, or tune the second note.

# Technical Support

Before contacting Rising Software Technical Support, please consult this User's Guide and the online help. If you still cannot resolve your problem or query, please contact Rising Software Technical Support through one of the methods below.

When contacting Rising Software, please have the following details on hand:

1. The version of Auralia you are using;
2. The version of Microsoft Windows you are using;
3. The type of sound or MIDI equipment you are using, and details of your Auralia sound configuration, if it is a sound related problem;
4. Whether Auralia is installed on a network, and if so, what type;
5. What the exact problem is, such as the exact message given by Auralia, what you were doing when the error occurred (eg practising intervals, reviewing students' statistics, etc), and any other details you feel are relevant.

## Internet

Rising Software maintains a web site at the following address:

*<http://www.risingsoftware.com>.*

Consult our site before using alternative forms of communication. Listing of known bugs and program updates will be listed there.

## Email

We can be contacted through email on the internet (and associated networks) at the address: *[support@risingsoftware.com](mailto:support@risingsoftware.com)*.

## Fax

You are welcome to fax any correspondence regarding Auralia to us on +61 3 9481 3380. Please include a fax number if you wish your query to be responded to by fax.

## Telephone

You can reach the Rising Software office during business hours on + 61 3 9481 3320. If you are in the USA, please call (888) 667 7839. If we are unavailable, please leave a message and we will return your call.

## Post

You can reach Rising Software by post at:

Rising Software Australia  
3 Darling St  
Fairfield, VIC 3078  
AUSTRALIA

# License Agreement

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- (2) all and any losses, costs, expenses and damages whatsoever and howsoever incurred by the Licensor in connection with or arising out of a breach by you of any provision of this Agreement.

4.6 Nothing in this Agreement excludes, restricts or modifies any condition, warranty, right or remedy which is conferred on you by the *Trade Practices Act 1974* (Cth) or any other consumer legislation as amended (the "Acts") which we are not lawfully able to exclude, restrict or modify. Where we breach a non-excludable condition or warranty which has been implied by the Acts, our liability for breach will be limited, to the extent lawfully permissible, to:

- (1) in the case of supply of goods, the replacement of the goods or the supply of equivalent goods, the repair of the goods, the payment of the cost of replacing the goods or of acquiring equivalent goods, or the payment of the cost of having the goods repaired;
- (2) in the case of the provision of services, the supplying of the services again, or the payment of the cost of having the services supplied again;

whichever the Licensor sees fit to provide.

4.7 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, the Licensor's entire liability for breach of its covenants and warranties in this Agreement and for any defect or errors in the Product shall be limited to the price paid by you for the Product.

4.8 To the extent permitted by law, you acknowledge and agree that the Licensor is not liable for any loss or damage, including any special, indirect or consequential loss or damage (including economic loss, loss of profits, business interruption, loss of business OR loss of revenue) whether such loss is caused by the Licensor's breach of its obligations under this Agreement or any negligence or other tortious act or omission or in any way results from your use, non-use or inability to use the whole or any part of the Product (including as a result of any malfunction, breakdown, error or virus in the Software) or otherwise OCCURS in connection with this Agreement.

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6.3 **You agree to the collection and use of your personal data in accordance with the Licensor's privacy statement (available from the Licensor or at the Licensor's website at <http://www.risingsoftware.com/privacy.shtml>) which may change from time to time.**

6.4 **This Agreement is intended by the parties hereto to be a final expression of their agreement with respect**

to the subject matter hereof and a complete and exclusive statement of the terms of such agreement. This Agreement supersedes any and all prior understandings, whether written or oral, between you and the Licensor relating to the subject matter hereof.

6.5 This Agreement shall be construed and governed by the laws of Victoria, Australia and both parties agree to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Victorian courts.

6.6 The provisions of this Agreement shall not be varied, except by agreement in writing and signed by the parties.

6.7 If there is a disagreement between you and the Licensor that cannot be resolved then prior to commencing proceedings in any Court, you must refer the matter to the Australian Commercial Disputes Centre for arbitration in accordance with the Centre Guidelines on Arbitration. The decision of the arbitrator (including any award as to costs) will be final and binding.





