

# Drake Music Scotland



*Milestones: How we Built a Digital Orchestra and flew it from Scotland to Singapore.*

Notes following presentation – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020

YOUTUBE link – here are the specific clips that I used for presentation -

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6jIWglh2ovaiA6JGPwJRjEa19D1htElj>

YOUTUBE – Digital Orchestra Playlist -

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6jIWglh2ovYBgXRSQGgG9NhxS3Yti7eo>

## KIT (only part of the whole)

We have built up some good kit over the years but funding is always an issue. We buy the best quality we can afford and it then tends to repay us by lasting longer (we get an average 7-8 years out of a laptop). Good stands, good speakers are just as important as the tablet or digital instrument. We're always on the lookout for new hardware and software...but each new thing can be expensive and take time to learn.

Current Hardware Technology:

Before any of the stuff below....

**Don't Forget - Music Stands, iPad clamps & mounts, laptop stands, Good quality speakers on stands.** This infrastructure has been vital to enable us to rehearse and perform on a stage – looking, feeling and functioning like an orchestra. We've made a very conscious effort to not use a classroom approach putting things on tables, chairs etc – always thinking about it working on a STAGE!

For gigs and rehearsals - Good PA and mixing desk (we just have 20 year old analogue desk but hire digital desk for gigs) has also made a huge difference to the sound and audio impact of the music we have made. On stage, individual near field monitoring is essential for digital instruments.

## iPads:

- Thumbjam (<https://www.thumbjam.com/>) – using the inbuilt sounds and extra downloads.
- Thumbjam – also using this as MIDI controller connecting to MainStage using Bluetooth LE
- Touch OSC (<https://hexler.net/products/touchosc> )
- FugueMachine (<https://alexandernaut.com/fuguemachine/> )
- Garageband (on apple app store)
- AUXY (<https://auxy.co/> )

## Laptop software:

- Notion Music Software – this has a conductor line option that enables us to perform a score using a variety of switch or key inputs. This is flexible and adaptable – perfect for our laptop musicians who can read music scores (<https://shop.presonus.com/Notion-6> )
- Ableton LIVE (<https://www.ableton.com/> )
- Logic Studio (apple only)
- Mainstage (apple only)
- ROLI Blocks controller software
- Touch OSC (for wireless collab)
- Figurenotes software ([www.figurenotes.org](http://www.figurenotes.org) )

#### Input devices for software

Sensors & Switches – smoothie switch - <http://www.inclusive.co.uk/smoothie-switch-p2533>

USB Keys switch interface - <https://www.cricksoft.com/uk/crick-usb-switch-box>

Ableton PUSH controller - <https://www.ableton.com/en/push/>

#### **Other digital instruments**

Linnstrument - <https://www.rogerlinndesign.com/linnstrument>

Roland V Drums – output MIDI to Mainstage-

[https://www.roland.com/global/categories/drums\\_percussion/v-drums\\_kits/](https://www.roland.com/global/categories/drums_percussion/v-drums_kits/)

Brainfingers – <http://brainfingers.com/>

Used to control Notion Score programme.

Also Ableton LIVE and BopPad - <https://www.keithmcmillen.com/products/boppad/>

ROLI Blocks - <https://roli.com/products/blocks/>

#### **FIGURENOTES**

MIDI Keyboard – Nord EX88, Lead 3, etc and StudioLogic88

Using Figurenotes – [www.Figurenotes.org](http://www.Figurenotes.org)

Figurenotes YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckDVADux4zTCdsfHnIAARkw/featured>

PAST Technology that we are not currently using, it is either not really been reliable enough for live gigs or it does not suit our current musicians (but may come back one day!??):

- Roland Handsonic
- Soundbeam
- BEAMZ
- Skoog