

Using Acid Software with Young People and Adults with Disabilities.

The following article was written by Fiona Lamb, a Music Therapist working at The Powerhouse Museum SoundHouse.

I am a music therapist working with young people and adults with disabilities in the SoundHouse Vector Lab (www.shvl.org) at the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney.

Sony Acid Pro 5 is a fundamental tool in my work with individuals whose means of expressing themselves is sometimes limited by their disability.

I use Acid Pro every day in my work. Often I import midi files of backing tracks for my clients to sing along with, and Acid allows me to quickly change the tempo and pitch to suit each individual. It makes a favourite song easier to sing, and makes the experience more meaningful and more personal for each client. They love hearing their own recorded voices back with them in the role of their favourite artist.

Sometimes I'll use the client's vocal recording – either singing, speech or even utterance. I can then edit and render these out as new acidised looped sound files for use with our own custom made assistive technology, a sample trigger board called the Special Access Kit software. This means that at the touch of a button or switch, they can control playback of their own voice, and mix this with other loops, beats and riffs. Again, this makes the music making experience more personal and meaningful, and helps me to cater to a specific population.

See the Special Access Kit at <http://www.shvl.org/main.php?s=articles&artid=317>

In a recent workshop with a group of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities I was trying a new different arrangement with one client. The carer was amazed by her engagement and response and said "You've guided her to do something she's incapable of doing by herself. That was amazing! I'm really impressed! She got a real kick out of knowing that she had made that sound, and her face lit up. She's never engaged like that before."

Its moments like this which not only make a unique meaningful, musical life experience for a person with a disability, but which are immensely satisfying for me as a music professional as well. It's also something which would not be possible without the ease of use of a product like Sony Acid Pro.

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