worship
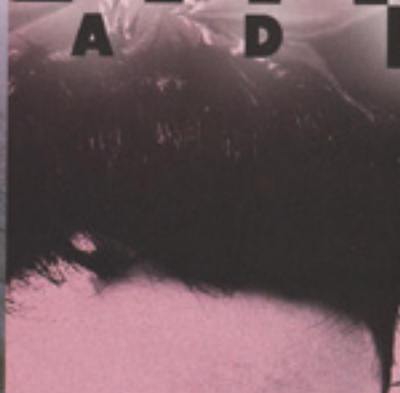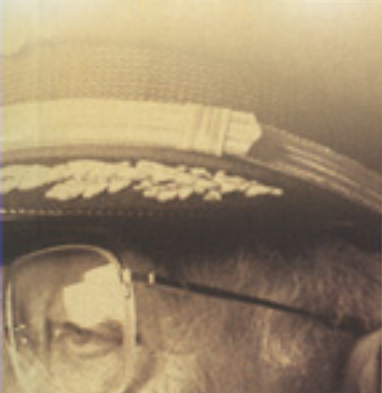## L E A D E R ®

Piano Wizard

While there are game-based music training materials available in the mass market, they tend to be biased more toward gaming rather than music. For example, Guitar Hero for the Sony PS2 Playstation teaches basic guitar but doesn't focus on musical development. Piano Wizard, however, is different. As a PC program, it can draw on the immense resources of the host computer. It is a finger training game designed to create the proper musical technique needed to become proficient at the keyboard.

It is one thing to teach piano, quite another to make it entertaining. Piano Wizard is more than a flashy screen. With its dazzling display, Piano Wizard captures the student's attention but it is the program's depth that keeps the knowledge progressing. Instead of concentrating on note names and staffs, Piano Wizard's finger training exercises are a welcome departure from traditional piano lessons. The beauty of the system is its ability to discard the rote memory of uninspiring songs through the Piano Wizard Premier feature. By downloading MIDI files to Premier, students can learn a song that interests them, not the one in the lesson book.

Piano Wizard uses a music-before-theory approach that allows students to play the minute they sit down at the keyboard. Traditional methods require

the student learn the "why" of music before the fun can begin, but Piano Wizard encourages immediate use of the instrument. Piano Wizard considers notation to be a mapping element for the music as opposed to a strict code of conduct. Since the music comes first, rhythm and phrasing are inferred rather than implied. The result is a shorter learning curve for the piece and higher retention after the initial play through.

Piano Wizard is a successful adaptation of the gaming genre to serious music lessons. It is as capable as a human instructor and fun to boot.

$249

WWW.PIANOWIZARD.COM

Galaxy Audio AS-1000

In ear monitoring has become a staple of live sound. Once the exclusive domain of large production companies and world tours, IEMs are now common sights in modest rooms and on church platforms. Previous attempts to develop cost effective IEMs, though, have proven unreliable or suffered from poor audio quality. The new AS-1000 breaks the mold by presenting a serious solution at a reasonable price point.

Galaxy chose to place a true diversity transmission system in the AS-1000. Diversity uses two receivers to select the best signal between two alternatives. With clear audio guaranteed, the AS-1000 adds to the recipe with a true stereo circuitry system. While other similarly priced competitors are mono only, the AS-1000 contains both mono and stereo options on the transmitter. The easy Group and Channel controls make finding an open frequency painless and the handy headphone port on the front of the receiver provides the monitor engineer with an exact replica of the mix the musicians are hearing.

In a trial run, the AS-1000 performed well and held its own against a pro level product weighing in at twice its price. The signal never dropped out and the audio level stayed clear even at high volumes. The only issue was the relatively large size of the bodypack receiver and its protruding fixed antennas. Considering the included hefty clip, though, the receiver was moved to the wearer's back where it posed no further discomfort.

Galaxy has built a worthy follow-up to the phenomenal successful Hot Spot series of monitors. The AS-1000 is a rugged, reliable and affordable monitoring solution.

$495

WWW.GALAXAUDIO.COM