


Review by [Erin B.](#), Common Sense Education | Updated October 2013



# 8notes.com

Solid mix of free and paid music ed resources, plus sheet music

Learning rating

★★★★☆

[See full review](#)

Community rating

★★★★☆


Based on [2 reviews](#)

Privacy rating

Not yet rated


Expert evaluation by Common Sense

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Grades

3–12




Subjects & Topics

Arts

Digital Citizenship & Literacy

+ 1 more

Price: Free, Paid



Platforms: Web

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**Pros:** Theory information on songs from different genres and some nifty extras can help kids improve their performance skills.

**Cons:** Kids have to buy sheet music for many of the modern tunes, and the same kind of info isn't consistently provided for each song.

**Bottom Line:** 8notes.com isn't as free as they imply, but it does provide some really useful resources to round out students' musical education.

How Can I Teach with This Tool?	What Is It?	Is It Good for Learning?
<div>Teachers can encourage students to search for and download songs they'd like to play using the free 8notes.com version. An ad-free school subscription is also available. Some aspects still need a little tweaking -- kids can currently only log in using a teacher's email address and site password, and there doesn't seem to be a way to track individual student progress. However, the subscription gives all students in a school access to mp3 play-along tracks; sheet music for longer, more complex songs; and high-quality, printable .pdf files. Students and teachers can also request transposition services.</div> <div>The site's lessons can also be doled out as reading assignments to help kids learn about basic music theory -- more than 45 lessons cover intervals, key signatures, and other topics.</div> <div><a href="#">Show less</a></div>		



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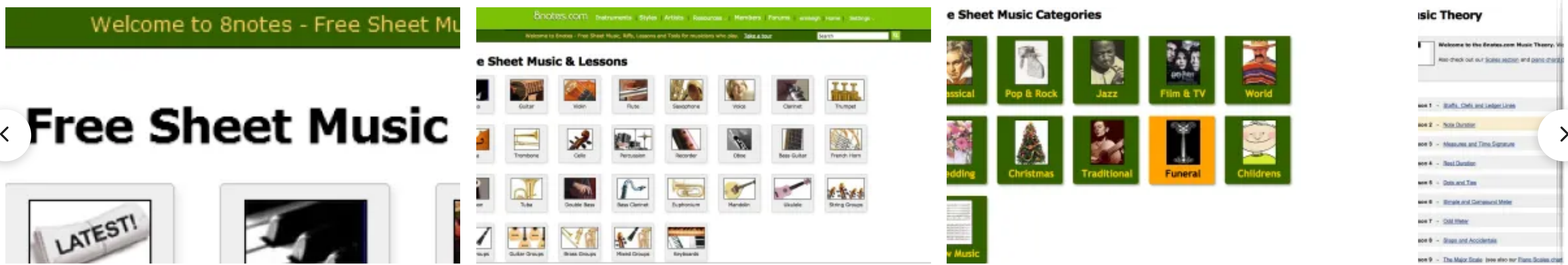
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How Can I Teach with This Tool?	What Is It?	Is It Good for Learning?
	8notes.com is a website that provides free sheet music for more than 25 instruments. Kids can also access written lessons on piano chords, drum beats, and other musical components and music theory lessons. Other resources include an online guitar tuner, metronome, and guitar and piano chord charts with audio files that let kids hear chords before playing them. Users can also read biographies on musicians spanning from Beethoven to Beyonce, upload pieces, and look up terms in a musical glossary. A forum gives kids the chance to communicate with fellow musicians.	

Learning Rating

OVERALL RATING

★★★★☆

ENGAGEMENT

★★★★☆

Some items, such as tracks kids can play along with and interactive tests, help kids connect with the site; adding more would make it an even stronger resource. Users can email each other through the site and discuss topics on forums.

PEDAGOGY

★★★★☆

Lessons teach music theory and explain musical elements; instrument chord charts, a guitar tuner, and a metronome also offer instruction. Sheet music can help kids learn about song components; exercises sometimes pair reading with audio.

SUPPORT

★★★★☆

Users can discuss music on active site forums, including instrument-specific boards. Kids can: view links to other music sites, music jokes, and composer and instrument images; buy sheet music; and print blank sheet-music paper.

Common Sense reviewer

EB

Erin B.

[See how we rate and review](#)

★★★★☆

(See all 2 reviews)

Write a review

K

Kirstin S.

Teacher

Cabell County Schools

Huntington WV, US

★★★★☆

Additional resource for finding sheet music and tutorials based upon artist, genre, occasion, and instrument.

8notes.com is simple a database for additional resources that students could use as practice or scaffolding difficult musical concepts. I would not use this website as a means to engage students or provide initial direct instruction/ exploration of musical concepts. Students could be made aware of this resource for additional practice, but I would not let students explore this website

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Helpful

11 years ago

Privacy Rating

This tool has not yet been rated by our privacy team. [Learn more about our privacy ratings](#)

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Inspire music makers and lifelong appreciation.

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