Using iPad Apps to Create Music
Part 1 – Grades 5 and Up

This is a roadmap/quick-start for two popular music apps available for the iPad/iPhone and how to start using them to help your student create and interact with music. These apps will allow them to easily make music and also learn/reinforce skills like listening, counting, pattern recognition and memory. The apps we are taking a look at are Launchpad and Musical Memory. Both apps are free (although in-app purchase are available options) and available for iPad and iPhone via the App Store.

You will need an iPad or iPhone to use this app, as well as headphones or speakers that can connect via wire or Bluetooth. This lesson will focus on the app Launchpad. Musical Memory will be covered in part 2.

App #1: Launchpad
Launchpad is a touch-based music creation app that uses pre-recorded musical samples. Launchpad allows the student to instantly combine drum beats, basslines, melodies and more using sounds from the included library. There are 11 different pre-installed genres of music to choose from. Students also can save and share the projects they create.

While the appearance on the iPad and iPhone differ slightly, they work in the same manner. Sounds are divided into rows and columns:

The horizontal rows are separated into categories for drums, percussion, bass, vocals, keyboards and effects, all of which are of the same general feel and style. Vertical columns are divided into different styles of the above instruments. Any sound from any column can be combined to create a song and can elements like speed and key can be changed in real-time.

Below is a picture of how the app appears iPad and iPhone

Follow this link (https://youtu.be/f3IVafGqcKY) as it is a great introductory video tutorial to get you started (there may be some unfamiliar terminology but don't worry, you don't need to know it to get started.)