

# **Sun City Summerlin Computer Club**

## **Digital Music SIG**

**February 18, 2010**

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# Agenda

- **Roundtable discussion, questions and answers**
  - HDTVs now in 2/3 of homes!
  - DiscRipper – CD and DVD Ripper and File Converter
  
- **Discussion and Demo (60 min) - MIDI**
  - What is MIDI Music?
  - MIDI Player / Jukeboxes
  - Free MIDI / Karaoke music downloads
  - Converting MIDI music to MP3s
  - Composing and Editing MIDI Music

# What IS MIDI Music?

- **Musical Instruments Digital Interface (MIDI)**
  - Well established standard
  - Requires a synthesizer to play a MIDI song
  - Windows has a built-in synthesizer, works with your sound card
  - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musical\\_Instrument\\_Digital\\_Interface](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musical_Instrument_Digital_Interface)
- **A MIDI song file has the following structure:**
  - Up to 16 separate “tracks”
  - Each track specifies which of 255 standard instruments to use
  - Each track specifies a sequence of notes for that instrument to play, including the volume, relative start and end time of each note.
  - The MIDI file also specifies the overall volume and tempo of the song.
  - One or more of the tracks is for drums and percussion.
  - Much smaller than MP3 files.
- **Well-crafted MIDI files can sound like a real band.**

# MIDI Players and Jukeboxes

- **Programs that can play MIDI files include:**
  - **Windows Media Player**
  - **iTunes**
- **Best I know of is Van-Basco MIDI / Karaoke Player**
  - Download Van Basco: <http://www.vanbasco.com/>
  - Has a great MIDI search website as well.

# Free MIDI / Karaoke Downloads

- Van Basco: <http://www.vanbasco.com/>
- WinKaraoke: <http://www.sonic.net/~fli/wink/index.html>
- Free Karaoke: <http://www.freekaraoke.com/>
- DMOZ.Org MIDI: [http://dmoz.org/Arts/Music/Sound\\_Files/MIDI/](http://dmoz.org/Arts/Music/Sound_Files/MIDI/)
- FindMIDIs: <http://www.findmidis.com/>

# Convert MIDI to MP3

- **PistonSoft – FREE Direct MIDI to MP3 Converter**
  - Product page: <http://www.pistonsoft.com/midi2mp3.html>
  - Download: [http://www.pistonsoft.com/midi2mp3\\_setup.exe](http://www.pistonsoft.com/midi2mp3_setup.exe)
  
- **Play the MIDI file and record it using Total Recorder**

# MIDI Sequencers / Editors

- Using a Sequencer / Editor, you can create or modify MIDI music
- Google with the following search words
  - free midi (sequencer or composer) windows
- <http://freemusicsoftware.org>
- Two Examples:
  - Free Anvil Studio
  - Piano Cheeter