



## Biography- Jean McKen

Jean McKen is author of *Breezin' Thru Theory* and *Breezin' Thru Composing*, two award-winning online curriculum resources for teaching music theory & composition. She is a former classroom music teacher who has built many successful band, choral, orchestra and music technology programs ranging from 4<sup>th</sup> grade through to the university level. She began using music technology early on to compose and to create engaging resources for her students and always recognized the need for a scaffolded resource that would close the gaps students had when learning music theory.

Based on both her experience in the classroom and from her work with music teachers throughout the United States and Canada, Jean began to build a totally new and effective curriculum tool for 21st century learners that would save time, be easy for teachers to use and make learning fun. *Breezin' Thru Theory's* full curriculum meets the need for differentiated learning at the middle and high school level, but even more thrilling, it has meaningful and engaging connections to composition when used with the companion product, *Breezin' Thru Composing*.

Jean's education includes an Honors Bachelor of Music from the University of Western Ontario, a Bachelor of Education from the University of Toronto and a Master's of Science in Music Technology from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, where she focused on music technology and instructional design.

She is also an award-winning composer, having recently won the Canadian Music Educator's Association 50th anniversary song prize for "I Am Song, Je Suis Chanson."