

the invisible, expanding keyboard in space



*"...his actual condition is degenerative, but that doesn't stop us hoping for very positive things. He quickly learned that he had control....he was laughing and smiling and chuckling, and it was just wonderful."*

*Joyce Hudson, Headteacher, Lambert School, Stratford on Avon, UK*



## WHAT kinds of special needs children and adults are able to benefit from using Soundbeam?

Soundbeam has been most extensively and thoroughly evaluated with children across the Severe Learning Difficulties spectrum including Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities and MDVI. The benefits to children and adults with a range of both genetic and acquired/behavioural syndromes including Autism and ADHD have also been documented.

## WHY is Soundbeam so effective?

Soundbeam provides a medium through which even profoundly physically disabled or learning impaired individuals can become expressive and communicative using music and sound. The sense of control, agency and independence which this provides can be a powerful motivator, stimulating learning and interaction in other areas. *Soundbeam is identified as a key resource by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in assisting children with learning disabilities to attain learning targets as prescribed by the National Curriculum for Music.*

Its success rests upon two factors: the sensitivity of the beam means that even the most unreachable or immobilised individuals can 'play' independently; secondly, electronic technology makes available a huge palette of possible soundworlds, releasing the player from the traditional limitations of percussion-based activity.

*"...she'd never done this before...(it) took terrific control and terrific balance, but she was so motivated by the sound...that she was able to sustain the movement, which was fantastic. It gives access to a whole world of music making, awareness and pleasure"*

*Sally Silverman, Avon Service for Special Educational Needs, Bristol, UK*



- SOUNDBEAM
- SWITCHBOX
- SOUNDBOX
- SOUNDCHAIR
- SOUNDBED
- VIDEOS, RECORDINGS AND PUBLICATIONS
- COURSES AND WORKSHOPS
- PERFORMANCE
- EDUCATION
- INSTALLATIONS

"patients can see the progress they are making by hearing musical sounds when they move in the correct motion. The sound helps guide and rehabilitate them"

Concetta Tomaino, Director of Music Therapy, Beth Abraham Hospital, New York



## WHO says so?

Ironically, Soundbeam was originally conceived as an esoteric performance tool for professional dancers; the recognition of its significance in the special education and therapy fields is a user-led phenomenon. Therapists in flagship centres such as the Royal Hospital for Neurodisability and the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in London, England, the Beth Abraham Hospital in New York and similar institutions throughout the world, alongside hundreds of special schools, have attested to the therapeutic power of Soundbeam.

"Soundbeam has played a major role in helping students realise their fullest potential. Multi-handicapped with visual impairments, in the past they were constantly being given assistance to hold and shake percussion instruments. Now with the help of Soundbeam they are independently making music...students whose movements are slow and slight are instantly rewarded...as they become more confident they begin to interact and take more chances, and to explore more and more the environment around them..."

Astrid Galipeau, Music Therapist, New York State School for the Blind, USA



### SOUNDBEAM has been featured at:

Arts Therapies Conference, Sittard, Netherlands, October 1992

7th World Congress of Music Therapy, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, July 1993

AAMT/NAMT/CAMT Joint Conference, Toronto, Canada, October 1993

ISME Biennial Conference, Tampa, USA, July 1994

Swedish Association of Physiotherapists, Stockholm, Sweden, April 1995

3rd European Music Therapy Conference, Aalborg, Denmark, June 1995

College of Occupational Therapists Annual Conference, Edinburgh, UK, July 1995

National Portage Conference, Northampton, UK, Sept 1995

RESNA Conference, Salt Lake City, USA, June 1996

ISME Commission on Music in Special Education, Rennes, France, July 1996

ISME Commission on Community Music Activity, Liverpool, UK, July 1996

ISME Biennial Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands, July 1996

International Portage Association Conference, Winchester, UK, September 1996

Music Medicine Conference, San Antonio, Texas, USA, November 1996

La Puce a Oreille, Handimed, Marseille, France, November 1997

CSUN, Los Angeles, USA, March 1998

Community Music and New Technology, LIPA, Liverpool, UK, July 1999

Disability and New Technology, University of York, UK, October 1999

IX World Congress of Music Therapy, Washington DC, USA, November 1999

Music Therapy ...Reawakening from Coma, Bologna, Italy, February 2000

Crossing Borders... Londonderry, UK, March 2000

ISME Commission on Music Therapy and Music in Special Education, Regina, Canada, July 2000

ISME Biennial Conference, Edmonton, Canada, July 2000

International Conductive Education conference, Birmingham, UK, Sept 2000

'Sound Practice', Dartington College of Arts, UK, February 2001

VII European Congress of Music Therapy, Naples, Italy, April 2001

## WHERE is the evidence?

This is just some of the research available:

CHESNER, ANNA: 'Dramatherapy for People with Learning Disabilities - A World of Difference. P.44; p.58.

ELLIS, PHIL: 'Developing Abilities in Children with Special Needs - A New Approach' in Children and Society, '95,9:4, pp.64-79.

ELLIS, PHIL: 'Incidental Music: a case study in the development of sound therapy' British Journal of Music Education. (1995), 12, pp. 59-70

ELLIS, PHIL: 'The Music of Sound: a new approach for children with severe and profound and multiple learning difficulties'. British Journal of Music Education, 1997, 14:2, pp. 173-186.

ELLIS, PHIL and VAN LEEUWEN, LIESELOTTE: 'Living Sound: human interaction and children with autism'. Paper presented at ISME commission on Music in Special Education, Music Therapy and Music Medicine, Regina, Canada, July 2000.

GAERTNER, MAY: 'The sound of music in the dimming, anguished world, of Alzheimer's Disease' in Wigram, T. and De Backer, J (Eds.) Clinical Applications of Music Therapy in Psychiatry, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 1999. Pp. 244-264

HILLMAN, MICHAEL: 'Introducing Soundbeam' in Tomaino, Concetta M. (Ed.) Clinical Applications of Music in Neurologic Rehabilitation, MMB, 1998, chapter 6.

OCKELFORD, ADAM: 'Music and visually impaired children', RNIB 1993

PERRY, BETHANY G. and WOLSLEGEL, WENDY M.: 'Assessment of effectiveness of Soundbeam to Elicit Movement and Social Interaction'. University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, 1997.

RUSSELL, KATHRYN: 'Imagining the Music, Exploring the Movement: Soundbeam in the Sunshine State'. Queensland Journal of Music Education, 4,1, 1996. Pp 41-48.

SWINGLER, TIM: 'The drum is not the only weapon' in Nordic Journal of Music Therapy, 1995, 4 (2), pp.103 - 107.

