What sparked your interest in music technology?
I have always loved gadgets and enjoyed working with numbers and solving puzzles. When I was pursuing my master’s degree at Indiana, a friend had an early model of the Macintosh computer and some music software. When I showed me what you could do — record yourself playing something, hear it back instantly, edit the notes, change the sound — I was amazed. I realized immediately that this seemed to bring together my interests in music, gadgets and numbers. I had been bitten by the music tech bug!

You’re a product of large state universities. What drew you to Furman?
I really didn’t know anything about Furman until I saw an advertisement in the College Music Society’s “Music Vacancy List.” I have learned I really didn’t know anything about Furman until I saw an advertisement in the College Music Society’s “Music Vacancy List.” I have learned that Furman provides, but it is palpable.

In terms of technology, today’s students are way ahead of where they were in ’96. In my Introduction to Music Technology course, I used to ask, “How many of you never used a computer?” Almost every hand in the room would go up. Most had never used a Macintosh?” Almost every hand in the room would go up. Most had never used a computer for anything musical. By contrast, today’s music students have been working with digital music files for years. Most freshmen have played with music notation software, and many of them have already done some composing with loop-based programs such as Apple’s GarageBand. A few even have professional-level home studios!

On the other hand, I see a greater number of younger students pursuing my master’s degree at Indiana, a friend had an early model of the Macintosh computer and some music software. When I showed me what you could do — record yourself playing something, hear it back instantly, edit the notes, change the sound — I was amazed. I realized immediately that this seemed to bring together my interests in music, gadgets and numbers. I had been bitten by the music tech bug!...