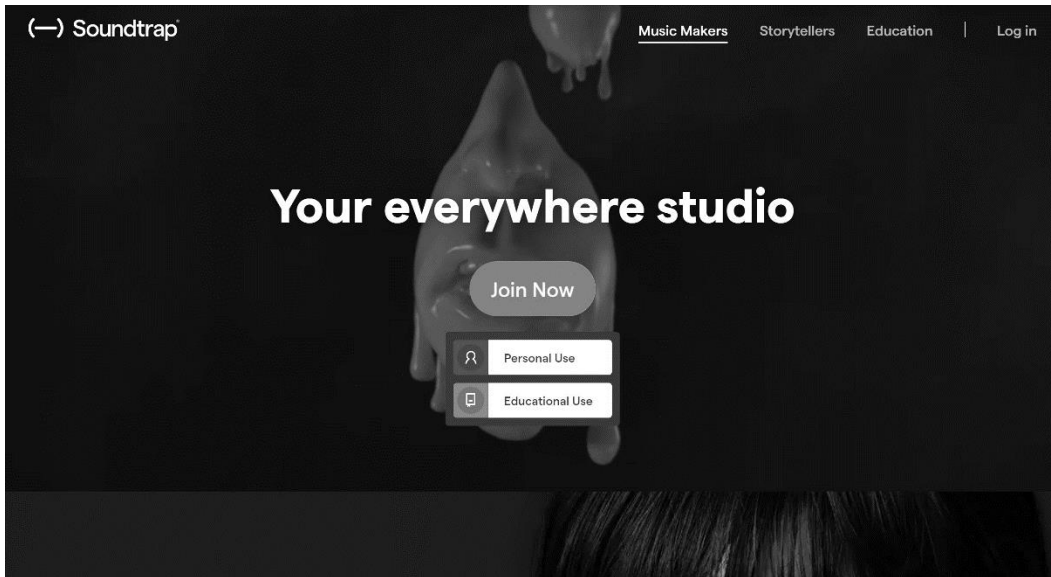


# Using 'Soundtrap'

'Soundtrap' is a Digital Audio Workstation (or DAW). A DAW is a place where you can record, edit, mix and master audio and digital recordings. Some DAWs you may have heard of are GarageBand, Audacity, Pro Tools or Cubase but Soundtrap has the advantage of being completely online (and can therefore be used on Chromebooks).

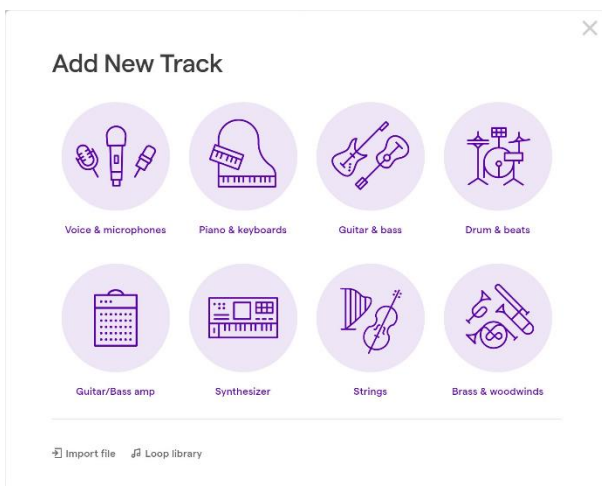
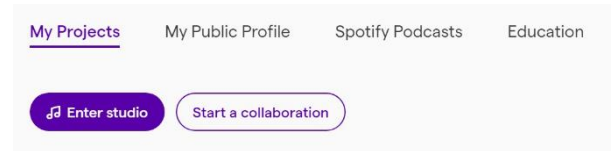
## Getting Started



The first thing you need to do is sign up. Go to [soundtrap.com](https://soundtrap.com) and choose 'Join Now', followed by 'Personal Use'.

Next, choose 'Sign up with Google' and use a Google account (like your student account, for instance) to sign in.

The next screen is your Dashboard. There is a purple button that says 'Enter Studio'. So... enter your studio! From here, you have several options. There's a brief description of each of them below.



### Voice & Microphone Tracks

This type of track uses your computer microphone to record live audio. You can use this option to record singing or real instruments being played but remember that it will pick up a lot of ambient noise along with your whatever it is you intend to record. If you have access to a USB microphone, you can use one instead of the onboard mic to increase the quality somewhat.

### Patterns Beatmaker

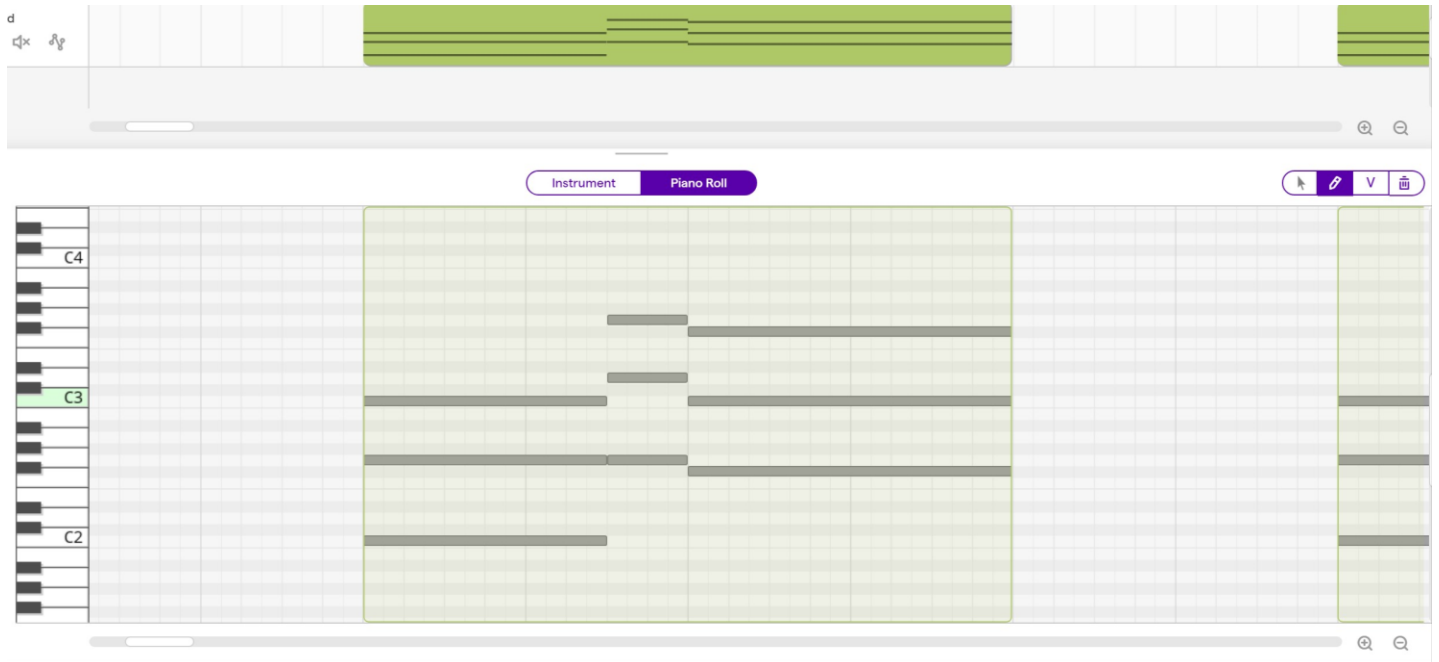
This is where you'll add drum sounds. Unfortunately, if you want orchestral percussion, your options are limited to importing it from another piece of software (like *flat.io*) or recording it live. If you're looking for drum-kit type stuff, though, this is an easy-to-use tool. It breaks down each bar into 16 squares. Just fill in the squares where you want each instrument to be played and *voila!*

# Using 'Soundtrap'

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## Instruments Tracks

This is probably what you'll use most. These tracks create a digital instrument that you can play right on the computer. There's a huge selection of instruments and synthesized sounds. Most of the instruments can be played using an on-screen piano or programmed using the 'Piano Roll', which looks (and works) like this:



As long as you have the little purple pencil in the corner selected, you can draw notes into the squares that correspond with each piano key (similar to the Beatmaker). To lengthen or shorten a note, just hover over the edge of the note and your cursor will turn into a drag cursor, allowing you to drag it back and forth. Zoom in using the magnifier in the corner for smaller subdivisions.

## Loops

If you choose 'Browse Loops' or click the purple eighth notes in the top right, you'll be allowed to choose from a huge collection of pre-recorded segments of music that might be very helpful in getting you started. You could hypothetically even combine enough loops to not have to actually write anything yourself although, honestly, this might prove more challenging than it's worth. You can adjust the key of the entire loop or of different chunks of it as you go.