



Salida Middle School
Cherish Doll

Summary: Cherish teaches middle school students in Salida, CA, and her students use Sonicfire Pro for a wide range of classroom projects. She also uses Sonicfire Pro to create soundtracks for side projects, such as videos for the parents of students.

As a teacher at Salida Middle School in Salida, CA, Cherish Doll gets a lot of use out her copy of Sonicfire Pro. The 6th through 8th grade video students she works with use Sonicfire Pro to create soundtracks for their classroom projects, including a weekly school news report, public service announcements, mini-horror movies and a game show that is shown throughout the school via closed-circuit.

However, Sonicfire Pro is more than just a classroom tool for Doll. She uses when giving in-services and producing public service announcements, as well as for her own personal use. Occasionally, her students will come to her asking for her to work on a special project, and sometimes Sonicfire Pro is the tool that makes a difference.

“One of my students wanted to do a video montage of their mother for a birthday present,” said Doll. “I created the video, and scored it using Sonicfire Pro. It turns out that the music I selected from the Sonicfire Pro library was the same music that her wedding videographer used, and that made it even more special for her.”

At school, Sonicfire Pro is used a variety of ways. One of the main projects that her class works on is the “Advisement Feud”. At Salida Middle School, the first period of the day is Advisement, and students stay with their teachers for the three years they attend the school. Every Friday during Advisement, Doll’s students produce “Advisement Feud”, where teams of four students from two classes compete for prizes for their homeroom.

“We use Sonicfire Pro a lot for Advisement Feud,” Doll said. “We use the music for the beginning and ending themes, as well as to play during the time the contestants have to think.”

Additionally, Doll’s students produce a weekly news round-up called the Khaki & Blue Review (the school’s dress code colors) that is broadcast each Monday during Advisement. This program highlights weekly school news and sports activities as well as spotlighting a different school staff member. Once again, Doll’s students use Sonicfire Pro to create soundtracks for their footage. And despite being in junior high, they have no problems using Sonicfire Pro.

“For them, it’s very easy to use,” Doll said. “Since I’m working with them, we discuss what type of music they are looking for, and then we can do a search to find the right piece of music, and quickly turn it into a soundtrack.”

Because of budget constraints Doll, like many teachers, has been forced to purchase many of her own supplies. When you teach video editing, that can get costly. But Sonicfire Pro’s affordable pricing,



along with the low cost of the royalty-free music library, has made purchasing it a great decision. Doll's first point of entry into world of SmartSound products was when she saw Movie Maestro, SmartSound's consumer-level product, being demonstrated at a trade show.

"Previously, I had been using the file music that came with my Casablanca system," said Doll. "I had heard about Movie Maestro, and I saw it at the show and bought it. It was good, but I wanted more, and that's when I decided to get Sonicfire Pro."

The "more" that Sonicfire Pro delivers for Doll and her students is the ability to search for music tracks a variety of different ways. The Maestro feature in Sonicfire Pro gives users multiple search tools for finding exactly the right piece of music to construct a soundtrack. Users can search by style, instrument, intensity or keywords, and can combine searches to drill down to exactly the right piece.

"Most of the time, students do not know much about their desired music other than that they can hum it," Doll said. "This lets us figure out what style of music they are looking for, and we can search for and sample music from there."

The Maestro feature also lets users with an Internet connection preview, purchase and download any one of the more than 1,000 royalty-free music cuts in the SmartSound library. This feature is especially helpful when searching for music for a specific project.

"If one of our kids needs something, and we don't have it, we can search for it and get it for them to start using right away," Doll said. "It's a great way to get just what they are looking for."

And what does Doll think the "secret weapon" of Sonicfire Pro is? The music. The SmartSound music library features top-quality music performed by real musicians, not canned or synthesized stock music. The music is so good, in fact, that she wishes it could take a place in her car stereo with her favorite CDs.

"I love the music, and I'm always amazed at how good it sounds," Doll said. "I wish I could make a CD of my favorite tracks just to listen to on my way to and from work."