Digital Tabletops?
Think about a large horizontal touch screen with special objects that you can grab. DT Musical Instruments make it easy to manipulate complex musical concepts using simple interfaces and gestures.

Music Contour?
Contour in music is the quality of movement of a melody, including nearness or farness of successive pitches. It is often described in terms of shapes that visually resemble pitch movement.

So how do we explain and manipulate contour without using music notation?

A tabletop musical application to understand Contour
This application uses a simplified music representation in which music is created by drawing shapes. The grids can be connected to create longer melodies, and also rearranged to manipulate music on a higher level.

A study of Contour
A study involving individuals was conducted. The idea was to make participants compose music that related to a painting. The painting was chosen with features reminiscent of contour. The aim was to associate visual images and music in an interpretative context.

Results
- DTMs can help people learn and use simple musical concepts and use them to make music.
- Tutoring is critical to the learning process:
  - 12 of 20 participants showed a difference in their understanding of contour after the session;
  - the 7 of these 12 that also received tutoring were more proficient than the others in identifying contour shapes and using the vocabulary used by the tutor.
- All 20 participants enjoyed the experience, and stated that they were more confident in their potential ability to make music than they were before.

Get in touch and find out more! andreafranceschini.org/research