

# HW2: Heuristic Evaluation for Pitch Perfect

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## 1. Home screen: It is not easy to see what can be done from the home screen – there are no initial instructions/hints.

Principle: Track state, learnability, help and documentation

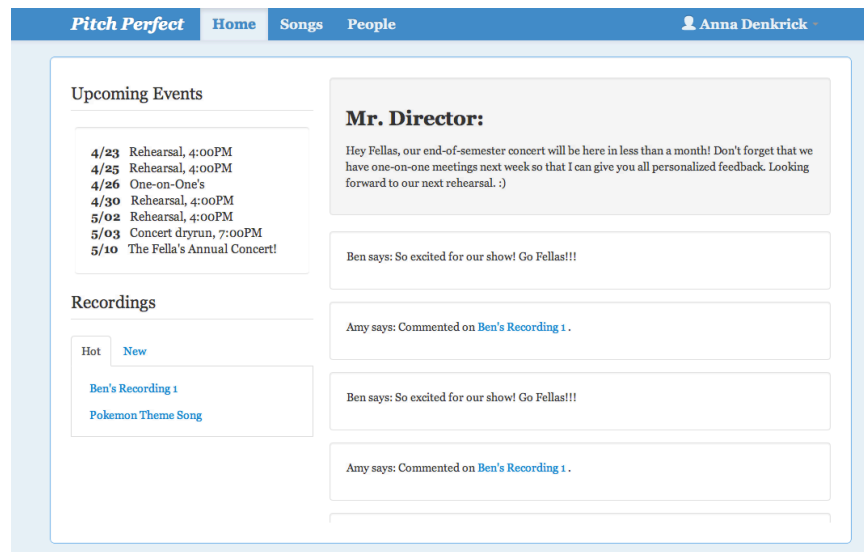
Severity: negative, major

It is not immediately obvious how to use the application, since the user is not shown any actions that they can do, but is shown a lot of information. The interface could show hints or possible actions a user can do (ex. "Record a song!"). This would increase the learnability of the application.

## 2. Similar types of information are grouped together in panels on the home page.

Principle: layout (grouping)

Severity: good!



## 3. The news feed is not labeled, while the other panels on the home page are labeled.

Principle: Learnability, help and documentation, consistency

Severity: negative, cosmetic

It is initially unclear what information is displayed in the large panel, because each other panel on the home page is labeled.

## 4. The user is shown their profile name on the top navigation bar.

Principle: Feedback

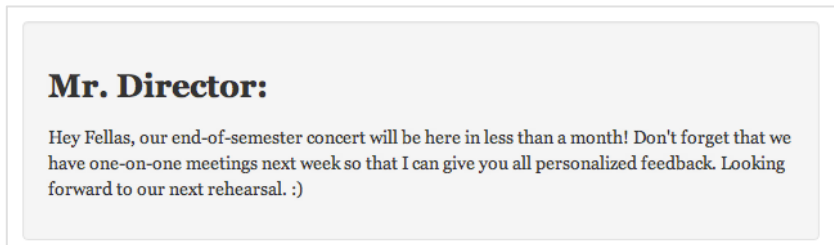
Severity: good!

 Anna Denkrick

**5. It is initially unclear whether the first message is from the director or is addressing the user as the director.**

Principle: Learnability, help/documentation, hierarchy  
Severity: negative, major.

Since Mr. Director is larger than all of the text and appears before the message, it appears as if the user is addressed as Mr. Director, though this is not desired. The format of messages or announcements should clearly reflect who the message/announcement is from and to whom it is sent.

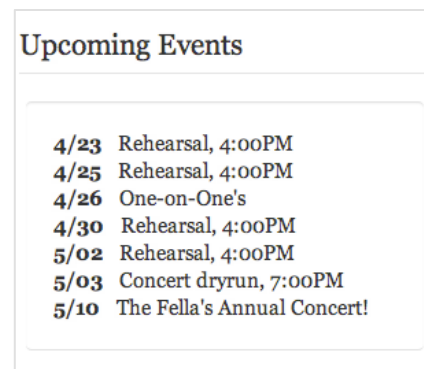


**The top message displayed on the news feed**

**6. Users cannot add or remove events to the Upcoming Events calendar.**

Principle: autonomy, CRUD  
Severity: negative, minor

Users should be able to add, edit, or remove events to their calendars. There is no indication that this is possible.



**The Upcoming Events calendar on the home page**

**7. The Choose a Song page has no documentation except for "Choose a song".**

Principle: help and documentation, learnability  
Severity: negative, major.

This page asks users to choose a song without telling them what they are choosing a song for. For new users, this can be a source of confusion.

**8. The play and record buttons are close to each other.**

Principle: efficiency (Fitt's Law)  
Severity: good!

These two actions would typically be used together, so this improves mouse efficiency.



**9. The play button requires you to press it again to stop the music, which is externally inconsistent with other audio controls.**

Principle: external consistency, learnability  
Severity: negative, minor

While there is an affordance to press the play button again to stop the music, this is externally inconsistent with other play buttons.



**10. There is no way to pause a song and continue playing where it was paused.**

Principle: efficiency and flexibility, safety

Severity: negative, major

The music always restarts from the beginning.

**11. There is no indicator for the user to see how much time has elapsed since the song has started playing.**

Principle: Visibility of system status, feedback, safety

Severity: negative, major

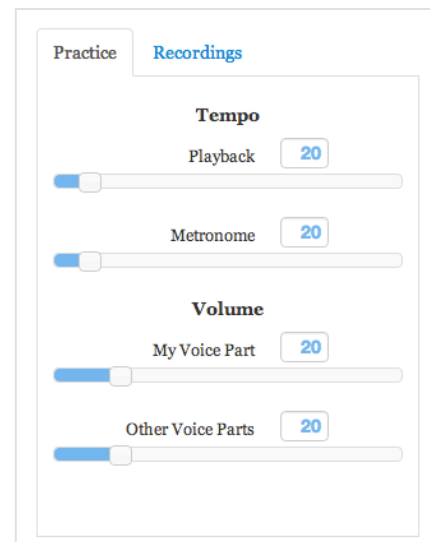
When a song is playing, there is no timer or vertical line for marking play position on the musical staff.

**12. It is unclear if the controls in the Practice tab need to be set before pressing play/record, or if they can be changed while the music is playing since there are no instructions.**

Principle: help/documentation, safety

Severity: negative, minor.

There is no documentation or contextual information for how to use the controls in the panel.



**The Practice tab on the Song page**

**13. The controls in the Practice tab are aligned both left and right.**

Principle: layout, graphic design

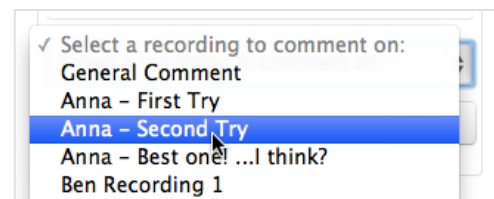
Severity: good!

This adds to the symmetry of the panel

**14. The Comments drop down shows all of the available recordings to comment on.**

Principle: Recognition, not recall, safety

Severity: good!

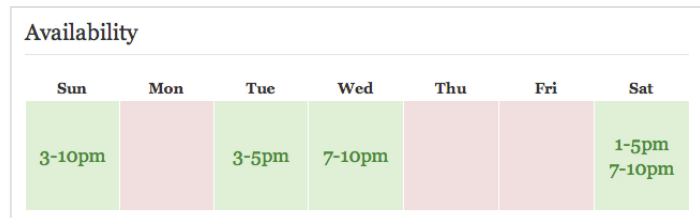


**The Comment dropdown on the Song page**

**15. The Availability calendar makes use of reduction and contrasting colors to convey information about the user's information.**

Principle: simplicity

Severity: good!



**The Availability calendar on the Profile page**

**16. The Availability calendar is externally inconsistent with the typical calendar, and does not let the user know what events are occurring, so the user has to recall this information. It is also not modifiable by the user.**

Principle: consistency, safety, recognition not recall

Severity: negative, minor

**17. Users cannot see what group(s) they are in – they can only see all of the people in the directory.**

Principle: safety, recognition not recall

Severity: negative, major

This could be problematic if a user is in multiple groups.