

SONATA

Beta Quick-Start Guide

Welcome

You're one of the first music teachers to use Sonata — thank you for that. This guide gets you to your first recorded lesson in minutes.

Read, follow along in the app, and if something feels confusing — reach out. Your feedback shapes your experience.

What Sonata does

Sonata records your lesson or dictation, generates a ready-to-send summary, and stores it in your lesson log.

The core flow is three steps: Record → Summarize → Send

That's it. Everything else is extra.

Step 1 — Sign in

Go to:

sonatalessonsummary-v-2-beta.replit.app

Tap *Continue with Google* and sign in with your Gmail account.

You'll see a screen that says *Google hasn't verified this app. This is a standard Google notice for apps in beta testing* — it's not a warning about your data. Tap Continue. You're safe.

Step 2 — Add your first student

Tap *+Add Student* on the dashboard. You'll be prompted to enter the following:

- Student first name
- Parent/client name and email
- Lesson Schedule (optional)
- Instrument (optional)
- Additional Notes (optional)

That's all you need to get started. Parent email, lesson schedule, notes can be added later from the Students page.

Step 3 — Record your first lesson

1. Tap Log Lesson on dashboard
2. Select student from the dropdown
3. Tap Start Recording — your browser will ask for microphone access, tap Allow
4. Teach your lesson normally (or dictate a recap) — Sonata records in the background
5. When you're done, tap Stop Recording
6. Wait ~60 seconds while Sonata transcribes and generates a summary
7. Review the summary — edit anything you want
8. Tap Save & Email Parent to save the lesson and send the summary to the family (requires Gmail setup — see below). Or tap Save without emailing to add it to your lesson log only.

On iPhone:

Microphone permission. Your browser will ask for microphone permission each time you tap *Start Recording*. Tap *Allow* — this is normal — for web apps on iOS.

Keep your screen on. Sonata records through your browser. Auto-lock won't trigger on its own while recording is active in the foreground, but the physical lock button will stop the recording mid-lesson and any audio after that point is lost. Treat it like a live microphone: don't touch the lock button until you're done.

Turn off Low Power Mode. When your battery saver is on, iOS aggressively shuts down background activity to save power — and that can interrupt recording mid-lesson. Charge up or flip Low Power Mode off in Settings before you start.

One Sonata tab at a time, especially on iPad. If you have Sonata open in two tabs (or two windows), iPadOS may put the recording tab to sleep when you switch. Close any duplicate Sonata tabs before you tap *Start Recording*.

Sending summaries to parents

There are three ways to send a summary after it is generated. Pick whatever fits your flow.

Option 1 — Open in Mail or Open in Gmail (one tap, no setup)

Tap *Open in Mail* (iPhone) or *Open in Gmail* (desktop) on the Review & Send screen. Your email app opens with the subject and body pre-filled. On iPhone, the parent's email address fills in automatically if it's saved in the student profile.

Option 2 — Copy and paste (works immediately, no setup)

Tap *Copy Summary* on the Review & Send screen. Paste it into any email app, iMessage, or wherever you communicate with families. Most teachers already have a routine for this — Sonata just writes the note for you.

Option 3 — Send directly from Sonata (one-time Gmail setup)

Sonata can send summaries from your own Gmail address with a single tap on *Save & Email Parent*. This takes about 5 minutes to set up and requires a Google App Password. See *Gmail email setup* below.

Gmail email setup (optional — do this on desktop)

This step is easier on a computer. You'll need a Google App Password — a special 16-character code that lets Sonata send email through your Gmail. It's separate from your regular Gmail password.

1. Go to myaccount.google.com/security and confirm 2-Step Verification is turned on.
2. Go to myaccount.google.com/apppasswords — search for "App Passwords" if you don't see it. Create one and select Mail as the app type. Google gives you a 16-character code. Copy it immediately.
3. In Sonata, go to Settings → Email Delivery. Enter:
 - SMTP Host: `smtp.gmail.com`
 - SMTP Port: `587`
 - SMTP Username: your Gmail address
 - SMTP Password: the 16-character App Password (not your regular Gmail password)
4. Tap Save All Settings. The badge will turn green and read 'SMTP Connected' when it's working.

Stuck? Reach out and I'll walk you through it.

If something goes wrong

Recording failed or upload error:

Your audio is preserved. Tap Retry Transcription. If it fails again, tap Download Audio to save it locally.

If you see 'Unauthorized' after recording — your login session expired. Tap Download Audio first to save your recording, then refresh the page, sign back in, and retry.

Email didn't send:

Check Settings → Email Delivery and confirm your SMTP credentials are saved. Use Send Test Email to verify.

Anything else:

sonata-beta-hub.canny.io — [post feedback or report a bug](#)

hello@usesonata.com — [direct email](#)

Your data, plainly explained

When you record a lesson, the audio is uploaded to Sonata's server, compressed, and sent to OpenAI to be transcribed. Once that's done, the audio is deleted from the server immediately — it's not stored in a database or saved anywhere on our end.

Your transcript and lesson summary live in your Sonata account. Only you can see them. If you connect Google Drive, a copy gets saved to your own Drive folder — your account, your files, your control.

On the OpenAI side: they don't use API audio to train their models by default. They may hold it for up to 30 days for abuse monitoring — that's their standard policy, not something I control. I just want you to know about it.

If a recording ever fails to transcribe, Sonata shows a one-time Download button so you can save the audio directly from your browser to your own device. Nothing extra is held on our end.

Sonata doesn't sell your data or share it with anyone. I built this for teachers like me — I have no reason, drive, or incentive to do otherwise.

Sonata is in active beta. Things improve weekly. Your feedback shapes what gets fixed next.

Thank you for being here early. — CJ, Sonata