

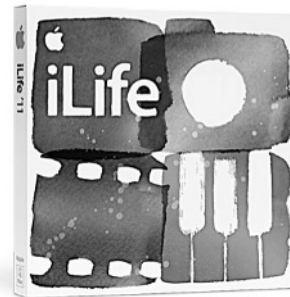
# Finding Life in iLife

**iLife** consists of several applications, including **iPhoto**, **Garageband**, and **iMovie**. Each of these applications has a very distinct purpose; however, it is when you use them together to create multimedia projects that the power of **iLife** really shines through. For example, you can combine these apps to create entire movies, photo albums, or even soundtracks.

One thing that makes **iLife** so powerful is that its apps behave in similar, complementary ways. This also makes them easy to use. The interfaces of the apps in **iLife** have been simplified for proficiency, and their underlying code leverages every bit of your Mac's power. Let's take a closer look at exactly what

the applications in the **iLife** suite do. Along the way, we'll examine some of the reasons you should consider making this suite among your most frequently used applications.

In this chapter, we will focus on the main and navigational menu items of each application. With **iLife**, no one can tell you what to do because the applications within it depend on *your* creativity and vision to get the most out of their rich features. Therefore, this chapter will focus mainly on how to use the simplified interfaces provided by the apps that make up the **iLife** suite.



**NOTE:** The Mac App Store sells all three of the applications discussed in this chapter, and each can be downloaded separately as either an upgrade or as a replacement for your existing **iLife** software applications. Your Lion operating system comes with **iLife**; however, future upgrades to this software must be purchased. As you might expect, you can be do so through the Mac App Store.

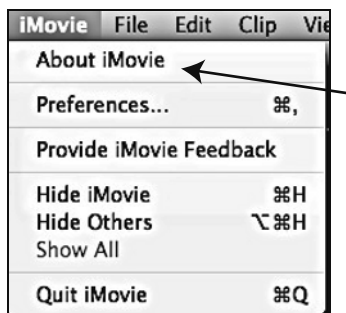
Those of you with earlier versions of **iLife** may also have the **iDVD** and **iWeb** applications. Both applications are being phased out, so I will not cover them here.

## iMovie

One of the neatest things about owning a Mac is the limitless way it lets you create and distribute any kind of digital media that exists today. This includes video, which can be crafted into commercials, music videos, training simulations, and of course, movies. **iMovie** lets you create editable video reels that are full of special effects and sounds. Moreover, these videos can be professionally massaged to forge theater-worthy video productions. What makes **iMovie** stand on its own as a movie editor is the ease with which you can sit down and bring your ideas to fruition. As noted previously, the only limit to what you can accomplish is your imagination. Let's take a closer look at what you need to know to make **iMovie** work for you.

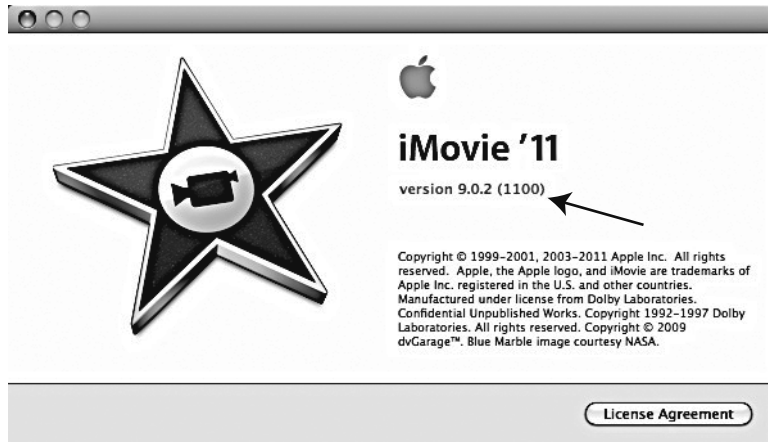


**NOTE:** What you see on your screen may vary from what is shown in this chapter, depending on which version of **iMovie** you have. I wrote this book using **iMovie** version 9.0.2, which comes free with the **iLife '11** suite. To check which version of **iLife** you have, simply click the **iLife** text title after opening the application, and then click the **About** option (see Figure 6–1).



**Figure 6–1.** The About iMovie menu option

Clicking the **About [application name]** menu option for any application will bring up an information window that reveals the app's version and some licensing information. Figure 6–2 shows the information window that comes up when you select the **About iMovie** menu option.

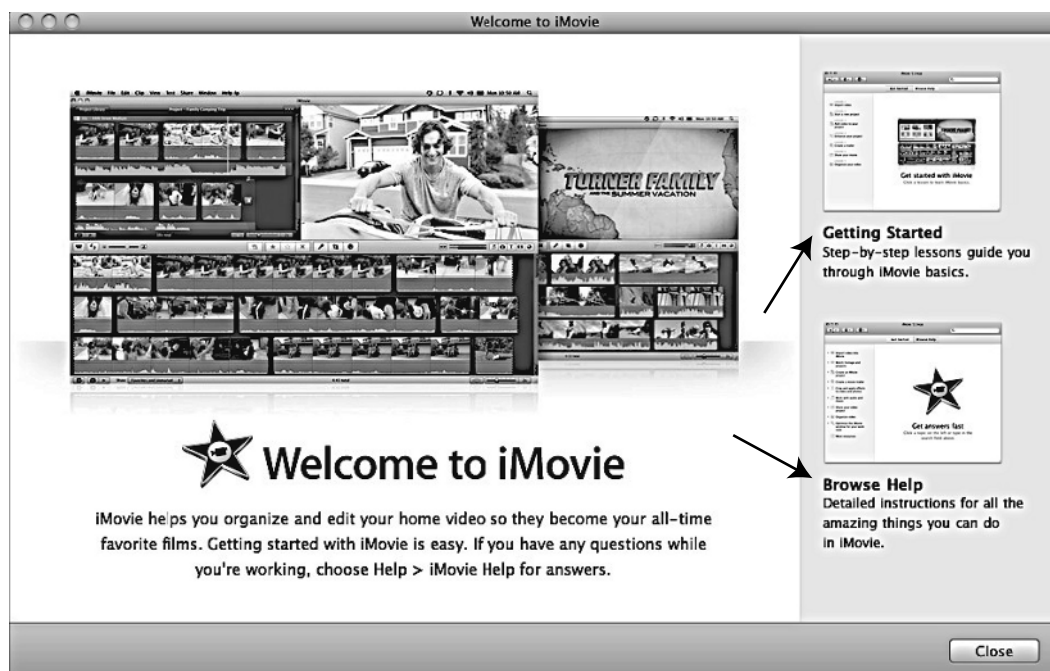


**Figure 6–2.** *About iMovie's information window*

After accepting the license agreement, you will immediately be taken to **iMovie's** main menu, where you can either choose to get started or browse for help on specific topics. If this is your first time using **iMovie**, I recommend that you peruse the **Browse Help** section, so that you can make yourself comfortable with what the app has to offer.

## The iMovie Menu

The first active window you see after accepting the license agreement is a menu that helps you get started. You have a couple options for doing so. First, you can take a guided video tutorial that walks you through the application. Alternatively, you can browse for help on various aspects of using **iMovie** (see Figure 6–3).



**Figure 6-3.** iMovie's Welcome menu

Depending on how seasoned you are as an **iMovie** user, you may want to take the time to go through the **Getting Started** tutorials. These tutorials give you step-by-step instructions on the basics of using **iMovie**. Experiencing these tutorials can quickly make you comfortable enough with the program to venture into other areas of the app that are not fully explained by these tutorials.

Like the tutorials, the **Browse Help** section allows you to learn about some **iMovie** topics that you may be initially curious about. This section can also serve as a handy reference guide if you forget one of the many shortcut combinations or how to use one of the tools included in the application.

I recommend that all users—from novice to expert—take the time to get to know this software before using it. Even an expert is likely to discover new tricks, services, and tools in newer versions of the software. In fact, I recommend doing this with all of the applications in the **iLife** suite, especially when you are attempting to use a new version of the software. It is always best not to assume that all of an app's features will continue to work in the exact same way.

## The iMovie Interface

The interface for **iMovie** is simple enough that even someone who has never done any type of video editing can jump right in and get started, yet powerful enough that it can bridge the gap between professional movie-makers and video hobbyists. As simple as

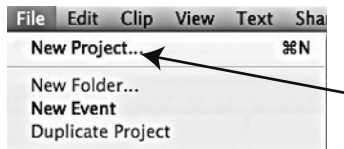
the **iMovie** interface is, however, it is still a good idea to know some of program's basics before you begin using it. For example, it behooves you to select the right template *before* you start working on a new **iMovie** project.

## Selecting the Right Template

One thing that sets **iMovie** apart from other applications is that it requires a bit of planning to use it effectively. This planning might include creating a story or selecting the music you wish to include for certain scenes in your movie. Above all, this planning means selecting an applicable theme and trailer to complement your movie and accentuate your efforts.

Selecting the right theme can make a significant difference in how the content of your movie is both perceived and received. You definitely want to get this part right because doing so can make or break your idea. Fortunately, **iMovie** includes several templates in the form of themes and movie trailers that you can leverage to create and advertise your project. **iMovie** also offers several ways to customize its included templates, so that your movie can still be unique and authentic. Let's proceed with creating your first project and selecting a movie template.

You can create a new project by selecting **New Project...** from the **File** menu or by pressing the **Command + N** keys simultaneously (see Figure 6-4).



**Figure 6-4.** *iMovie's New Project... option*

After choosing to create a new project, you will be prompted to pick a template for it (see Figure 6-5). **iMovie**'s templates can be highly modified, so take your time here, and choose the template that bears the closest resemblance to what you want your movie to feel and look like. Be sure to choose a good name for your project, as well as the right aspect ratio and an appropriate frame rate. When you select a theme for a movie, you will be presented with a preview of that theme. This will help you determine whether you're choosing the most appropriate theme for your movie.

Project themes are templates that **iMovie** uses to create content for your project before you start. These themes are used throughout the initial and concluding stages of your project. Movie trailers are intended to be used to promote your project; as such, they should advertise and specify what your movie is about, as well as give proper credit to all the parties involved in your movie's creation.

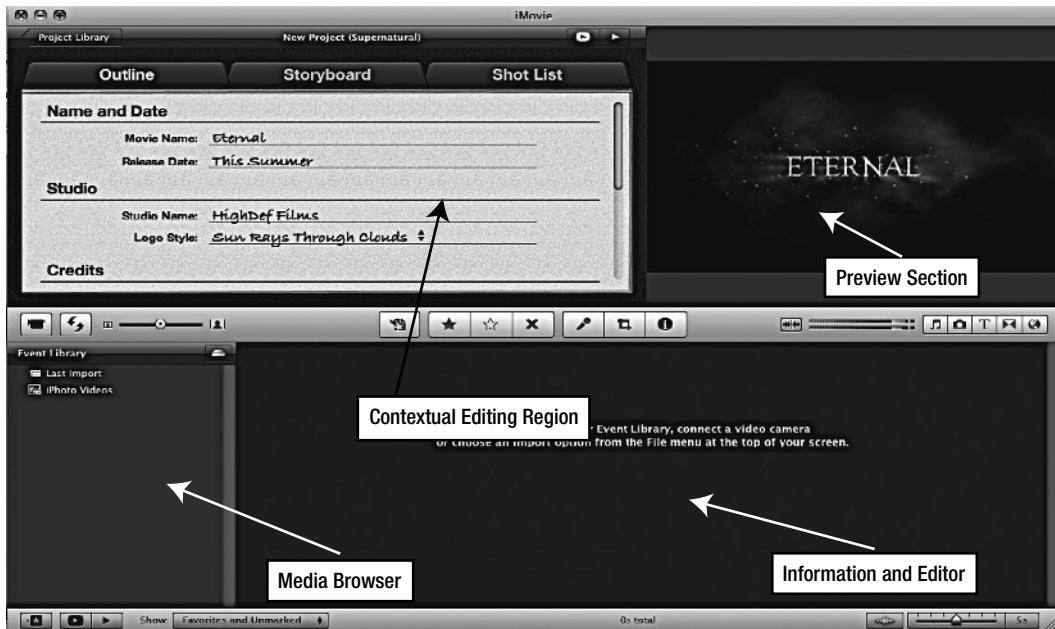


Figure 6–5. iMovie's template chooser

Once you choose your template, you will see iMovie's primary interface (see Figure 6–6). For this chapter's example, I've chosen the **Supernatural** template located under the **Movie Trailers** section. To follow along, choose the same trailer (or any other trailer that you like).

## Breaking Down iMovie's Interface

iMovie, like most software, requires that you understand its layout. This understanding will enable you to access the resources you need to create your movie quickly and easily. iMovie's interface is balanced by the inclusion of four sections: the contextual editing region, the movie's **Preview** window, the **Information** window, and the **Media Browser** window (see Figure 6–6). Together, these window panes form the interface that you will use to create your movie. Let's take a look to see what each part does in detail.



**Figure 6-6.** iMovie's primary interface

Each iMovie project is broken into three primary sections:

- **Outline:** This section holds all the information about those involved in making the film, such as the producer, studio, and other individuals like musicians (see Figure 6-7). This section is also where you place the title and release date for your movie.
- **Storyboard:** This section determines the contextual aspects of your iMovie project (see Figure 6-8). These aspects include the credits and storyboard; you will use these features to organize and align video clips in the preferred order.
- **Shotlist:** This section lets you fine-tune individual images and snippets of video you have taken (see Figure 6-9). For example, this section is where you can apply special effects to shots in your movie, such as slow motion and other enhancements.



Figure 6-7. iMovie's Outline interface



Figure 6-8. iMovie's Storyboard interface



Figure 6-9. iMovie's Shotlist interface



## Prepping Your Video Content for Editing

So far, we have taken a short peek into the basic interface segments required to edit your movie. Our next step is to look at what it takes to manage, organize, and prepare your video content for editing. When using **iMovie**, you will notice that there is a consistent menu bar that separates the pane for contextual editing from your **Media Browser** window (see Figure 6–10). This menu serves as a go-between for these two sections (see Figure 6–6).



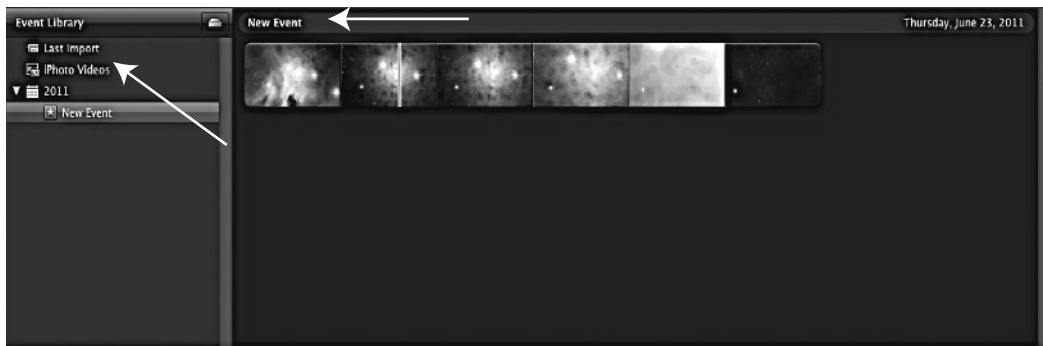
**Figure 6–10.** *iMovie's primary editor toolbar*

To learn what each button in the menu does, systematically place your mouse over each button and read the descriptions that pop up (see Figure 6–11).



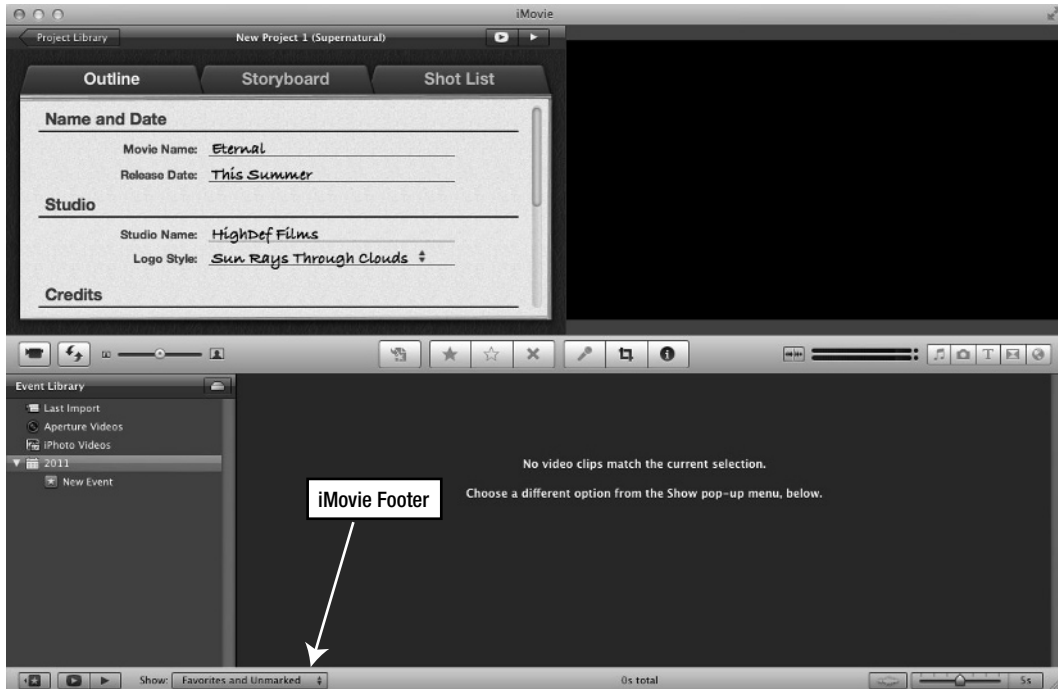
**Figure 6–11.** *iMovie's primary editing toolbar with pop-up notations*

Managing your project's events requires a keen focus on both the content you will provide for your project and what you will do with it. For example, you need to know what special effects and transitions you will want to apply to your content. Using the **Event Library** and the **Event Manager** together is what allows you to add content to your movie. You add this content either by using the **Import** menu option or by simply dragging and dropping movie, audio, and/or image files into the **Event Library** section. The **Media Browser** section immediately to the right of the **Event Library** section is what you will use to specify and manage timeline action items associated with your media objects (see Figure 6–12). Such objects might include images, movies, audio clips, and so on.



**Figure 6–12.** *iMovie's Media Browser and Event Library interfaces*

You can find **iMovie's Footer** menu immediately below the **Events Layout** section of the primary interface. The **Footer** menu allows you to initiate playback and adjust the scale of the **Event Manager** window, which is located immediately to the right of the **Event Library** menu (see Figure 6–13).



**Figure 6–13.** iMovie's Footer menu

When working with **iMovie**, there are two menus you will want to become very familiar with: **Clip** and **Share**. Together, these menus enable you to share and granularly edit your project. The **Clip** menu allows you to implement things such as special effects and instant replays, as well as to insert event items such as *fade points*, which cause one scene to fade into another (see Figure 6–14).



**Figure 6–14.** iMovie's Clip menu

The **Share** menu allows you to distribute your content in several ways (see Figure 6–15). For example, it lets you export your finished project to **iTunes**, from which you can upload it to the Internet to places like YouTube or Facebook. The **Share** menu also allows you to export your projects into third-party applications such as **Final Cut Pro**, a professional editing program. The latter program includes theater-quality effects and industry-standard editing tools that you can use to manipulate and edit your video further, giving it a higher level of polish.



**Figure 6–15.** iMovie's Share menu

Using **iMovie** can be fun and entertaining. And with enough practice, you and your friends and family can enjoy movie-making at its finest. All it takes is a little bit of patience—and a lot of creativity.

## iPhoto

Photo management is a part of computing life for almost everyone who owns a computer. Most mobile devices include photo-taking capabilities, and just about every modern consumer-oriented computing device can take photos in some capacity. Photos represent a large part of computing, and they serve as the foundation of communication for platforms such as marketing and web technologies. Photos allow us to store memorable moments and relive those great—and sometimes not so great—moments we want to look back at and sometimes share with others. **iPhoto** is the **iLife** application that makes all of this possible.



One of the most important aspects of leveraging digital images is finding tools that allow you to edit and organize your images in a way that fits the way you think. **iPhoto** provides a very simple way to access the features of a powerful image editor. For example, it includes a handful of utilities and tools that assist you in keeping your photos organized for later retrieval.

In the upcoming sections, I will describe some of the most commonly used features of **iPhoto**, so you can get the most out of the application right from the start. Along the way, we'll explore what it takes to organize, edit, and tag your photos for later retrieval.

## Getting Started

Like **iMovie**, **iPhoto** does some initial hand-holding when you enter the program, getting you started with video tutorials and help files that can dramatically reduce the learning curve associated with using the software (see Figure 6–16).



Figure 6–16. iPhoto's Welcome interface

When you launch **iPhoto**, you will be shown the **Welcome to iPhoto** screen, after which you will be taken to the **iPhoto**'s primary interface (see Figure 6–17).



**Figure 6–17.** *iPhoto's primary interface*

**iPhoto**'s primary interface includes a very simple set of menu options that let you navigate, edit, and organize your database of photos. You can access your library by event or photo entry, or even by face recognition or place. **iPhoto**'s primary interface includes the **Library** submenu, which lets you access your **Photos** library (see Figure 6–18).



Figure 6–18. iPhoto's Library submenu

## iPhoto's Faces and Places

iPhoto is full of advanced technology that is presented to the user transparently. This technology enables Mac users to leverage advanced photo-image technology without difficulty. For example, iPhoto's facial-recognition technology lets users access and organize photos based on the faces contained in the images. This is great for visually organizing your photos. This feature also makes it easy to access and manipulate photos in your library (see Figure 6–19).

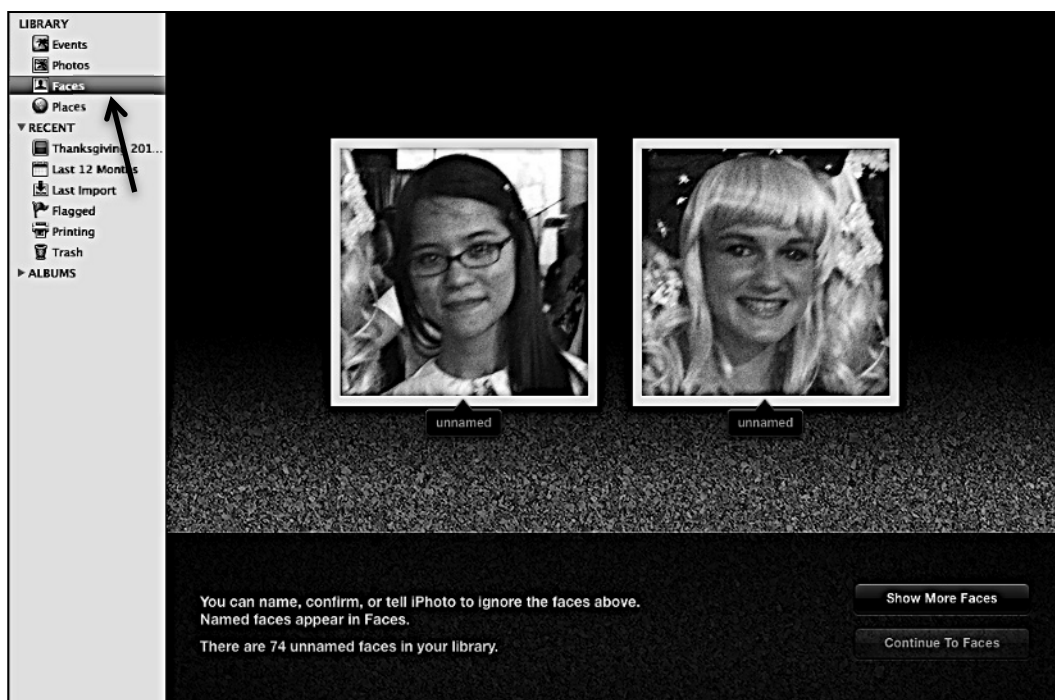
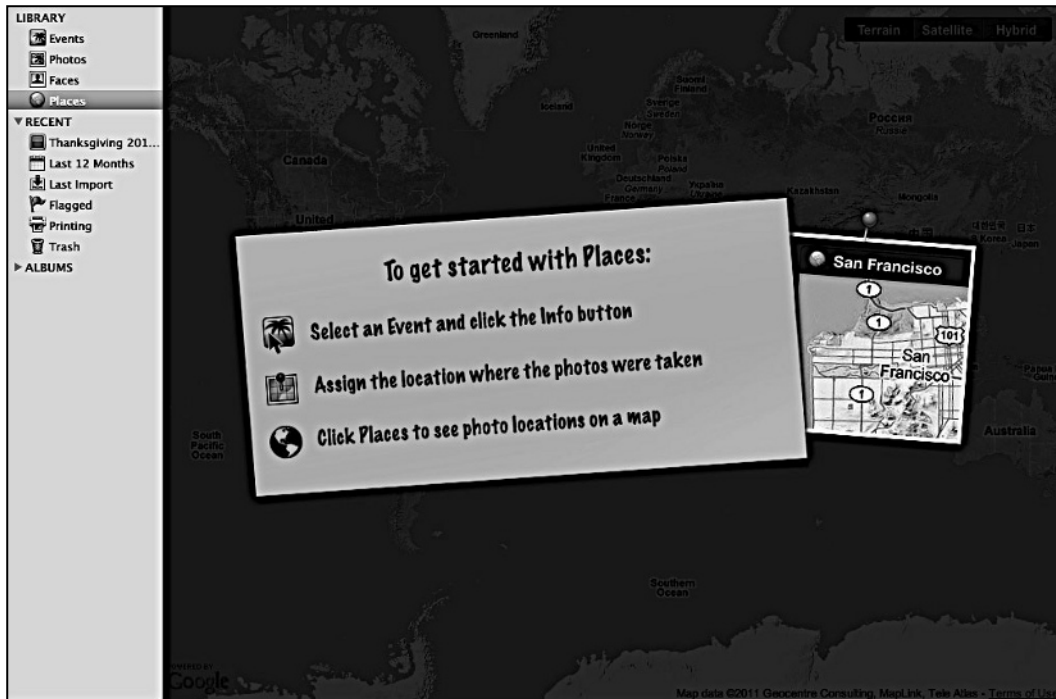


Figure 6–19. Accessing iPhoto's Faces feature

## Geotagging with Places

*Geotagging* is another great feature built right into **iPhoto**. This feature places geographical location information inside your photos when taken with devices that support it. This allows each photo you take to be referenced by location, and it can assist you in pinpointing where the photo was taken. This feature is great for reliving events by location (see Figure 6–20).



**Figure 6–20.** *iPhoto's Places feature*

Accessing images by face, place, or event is a very convenient; however, **iPhoto** gives you even quicker ways to find images in your library. For example, **iPhoto's Recent** submenu lets you access your images by the time they were taken. And once you locate the photos you're looking for, you can use the **Flagged** option to mark them as important (see Figure 6–19). Marking photos as *flagged* makes it easier to find them later.

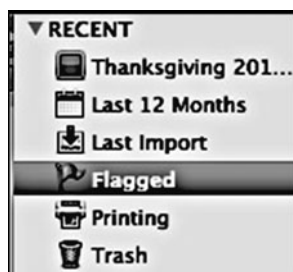


Figure 6–21. Selecting iPhoto's Flagged option

## Additional Features in iPhoto

Locating information in your photos is very easy. For example, iPhoto's **Information** utility exposes important information about each photo, such as its file name, date of creation, and a description (see Figure 6–22).

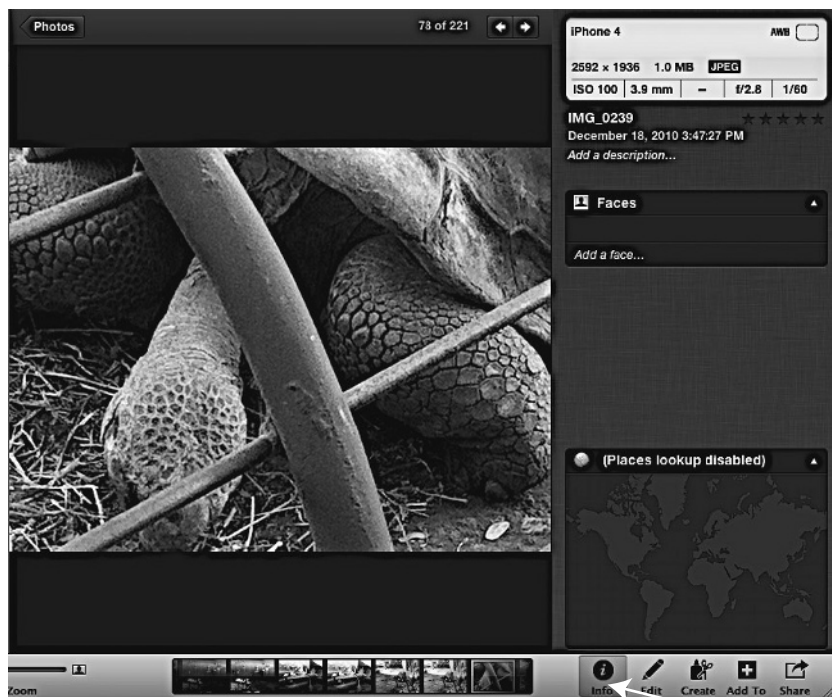


Figure 6–22. iPhoto's Information utility

## Editing in iPhoto

A photo application without great editing capabilities is not a great photo application. Fortunately, iPhoto is very strong in the area of image editing, and it allows you to apply



professional-grade filters and changes to your photos, helping you ensure that each picture comes out looking stunning. **iPhoto** raises the quality bar for photo-editing applications by placing powerful, simple-to-use controls at your fingertips. This makes it possible to dramatically enhance your photos with a few simple clicks (see Figure 6–23). For example, **iPhoto** makes it easy to crop or retouch your photos, or even to fix red-eye errors.



**Figure 6–23.** *iPhoto's editing options*

You can also use **iPhoto's Footer** menu to zoom, edit, create, and share photos on Facebook, Flickr, and other social networking sites (see Figure 6–24).



**Figure 6–24.** *iPhoto's Footer menu*

**iPhoto** is one of the best applications ever made for organizing, distributing, and storing photos. It includes myriad options for image editing, and it stands out from the crowd with features such as face-recognition technology and geotagging. It will be a long time before other photo applications catch up to **iPhoto**; fortunately, as a Lion user you do not have to wait to enjoy the world's most advanced photo-organizing application.

## GarageBand

**GarageBand** is held by many to be the most inexpensive yet most powerful music-making application that exists. Like **iMovie**, this app simultaneously caters to both amateurs and professionals. Its streamlined interface and easy-to-use navigational menus make it accessible to anyone who wants to lay down a track. Many professional audio editors and musicians begin their careers by using **GarageBand**, before moving on to more concert-oriented applications such as **Logic Studio Pro** (which is also made by Apple). As a Lion user, you get to do more than make movies and capture the essence of the photos that you take. You also get to make soundtracks that complement your movies and photos.



Working with **GarageBand** requires several things from you before you will be able to use it effectively. For example, you must have the will to learn how to create music, a good deal of patience, some kind of Midi instrument (such as a keyboard or guitar), and tons of curiosity. If you meet these requirements, **GarageBand** will help you leverage these qualities to explore music-making in all its endless possibilities. Let's see what it takes to acquire the basic skills needed to create your first track.

## The GarageBand Interface

**GarageBand**, like all **iLife** applications, requires that you have an intimate knowledge of its user interface before you can use it effectively.

## Welcome Window Pane

Like **iMovie** and **iPhoto**, **GarageBand** presents you with a **Welcome** screen when you first launch it. This screen allows you to choose between several different options, and the choices you make here will determine the type of activities you can undertake when using the application.

The first of these options is the **New Project** menu item, which lets you choose one of the instrument templates, such as the **Piano**, **Electric Guitar**, or **Keyboard Collection** (see Figure 6–25).



Figure 6–25. *GarageBand's New Project menu*

**GarageBand's Learn to Play** menu offers you the chance to follow automated lesson guides that can teach you certain chords, notes, and choruses (see Figure 6–26).

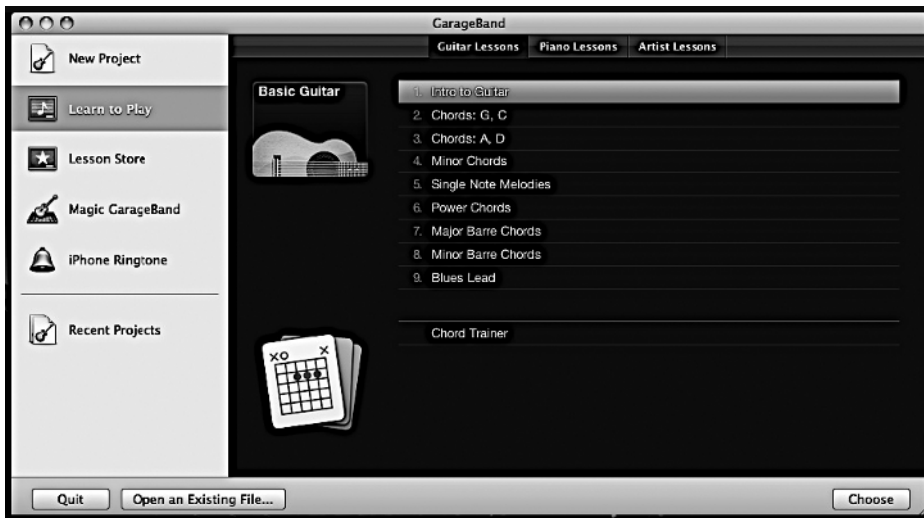


Figure 6–26. *GarageBand's Learn to Play option*

In a similar but much more advanced vein, **GarageBand's Lesson Store** gives you the option to browse and download online lessons from professional musicians in three different categories: **Guitar Lessons**, **Piano Lessons**, and **Artist Lessons** (see Figure 6–27).



Figure 6–27. GarageBand's Lesson Store option

And the app's **Magic GarageBand** feature allows you to play in a virtual band of sorts, where the instruments for a given genre of music are laid out according to the template you select (see Figure 6–28). The templates in this section allow you to interact with live instruments and even to record your own playback material in real time. For example, this section's **Blues** template enables you to play in your own blues band (see Figure 6–29).

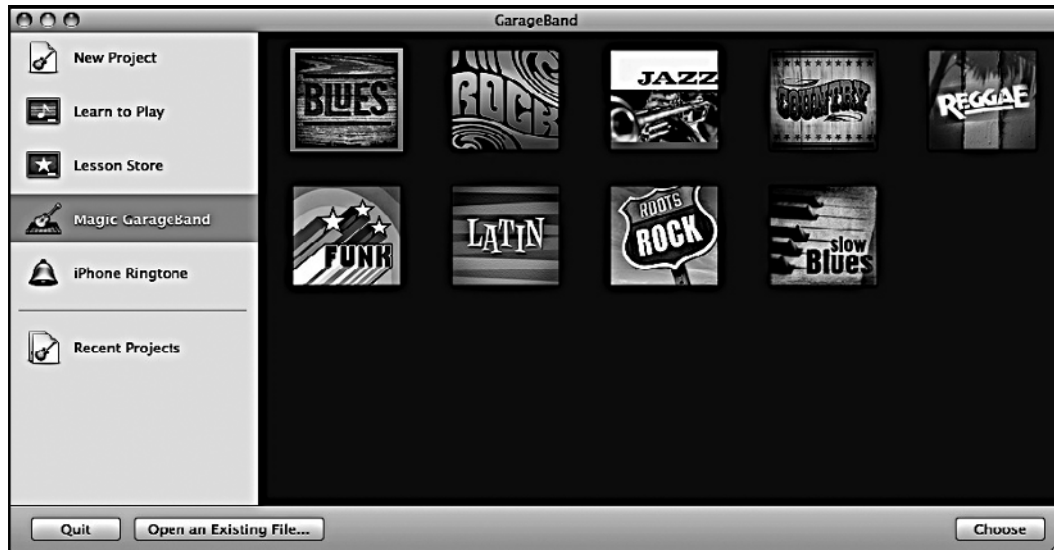
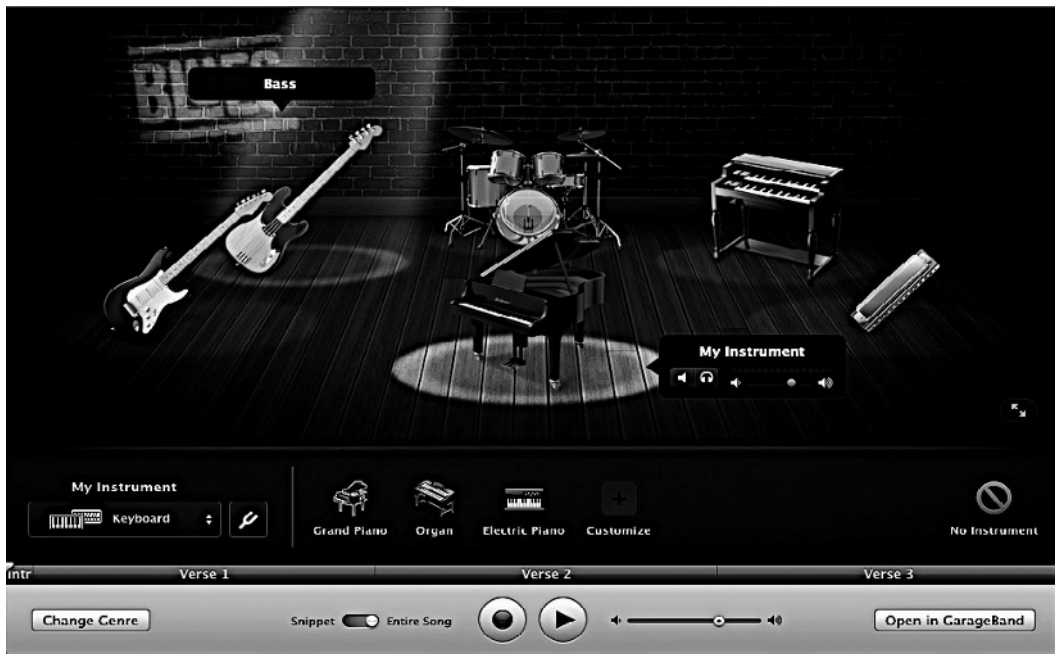


Figure 6–28. GarageBand's Magic GarageBand templates



**Figure 6–29.** Magic GarageBand’s Blues template

Finally, **GarageBand’s iPhone Ringtone** option allows you to turn any audio source file into a ringtone for your phone (see Figure 6–30).



**Figure 6–30.** GarageBand’s iPhone Ringtone option

## GarageBand's Primary Interface

Like other **iLife** apps, **GarageBand** requires that you take the time to understand its menu options and how they work. **GarageBand**'s menus include options that help you play back, record, and edit your music. Also like other **iLife** apps, **GarageBand**'s primary menu is contained in its **Footer** menu, which allows you to play, record, and set the tempo, signature, and key. The **Footer** menu also gives you the ability to add additional tracks, to edit the tracks you're currently using, and even to access your media library directly. Hovering over any button in this menu brings up some descriptive text, so it's easy to know what any given button does (see Figure 6–31).



Figure 6–31. *GarageBand's Footer menu*

Let's break down **GarageBand**'s primary interface, which is shown in Figure 6–32.



Figure 6–32. *GarageBand's primary interface*

## Tracks

**GarageBand**'s **Tracks** submenu allows you to manipulate and add components to each individual track. This is the section where you decide what instruments and sounds to add to your tracks. This menu is quite nimble. For example, it lets you move each track up or down the list, as it suits your needs (see Figure 6–33).



Figure 6–33. *GarageBand's Tracks submenu*

## Playback

**GarageBand's Playback** submenu lets you monitor and manipulate the content of the tracks that you add. You use this section to add, delete, cut, fade, and arrange the layouts of the recorded audio and loops that you have inserted in the form of track layers (see Figure 6–34).

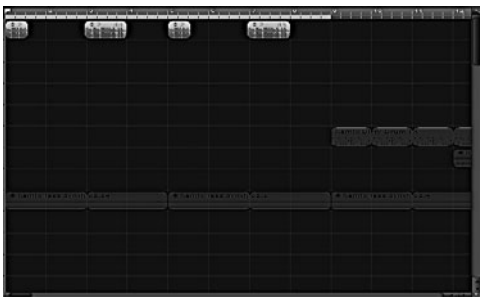


Figure 6–34. *GarageBand's Playback submenu*

## Premade Content

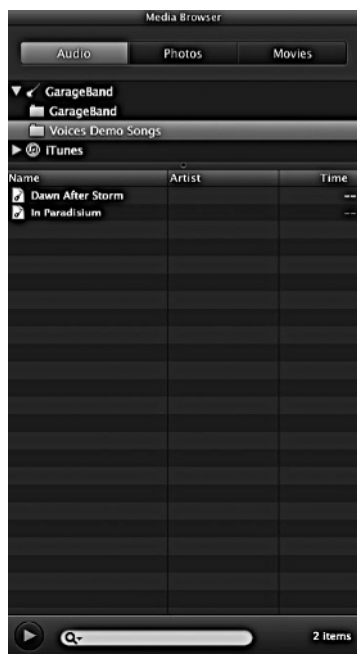
**GarageBand** includes premade content in the form of loops and prerecorded audio samples that you can use and reuse in different ways with new tracks. The **Loop Sampler** and **Media Browser**



utilities make it easy to access this content (see Figures 6–35 and 6–36, respectively).



**Figure 6–35.** *GarageBand's Loop Sampler utility*



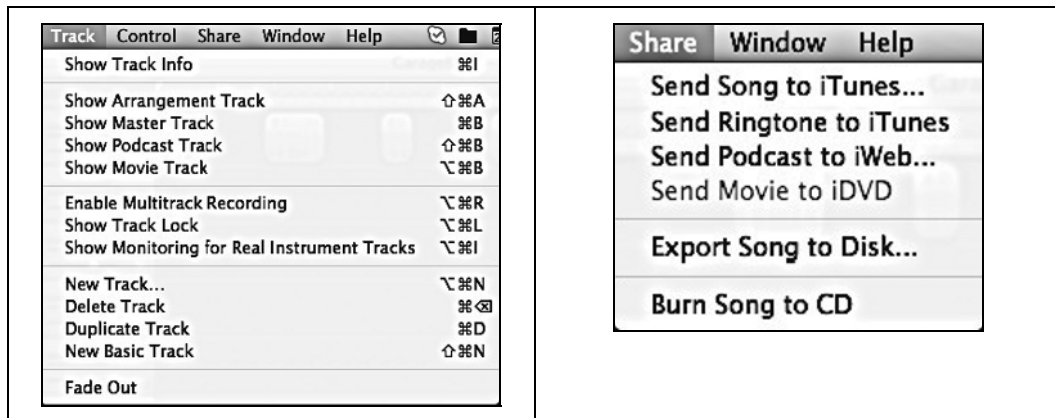
**Figure 6–36.** *GarageBand's Media Browser utility*



Using either of these utilities to retrieve media can dramatically decrease the time required to add content to your composition. Both utilities also let you search through either premade loops or your complete media library, including your **iPhoto** and **iMovie** libraries.

## Track and Share

**GarageBand** also includes two very important menu items that you should be aware of: **Track**, which allows you to perform basic and granular track editing; and **Share**, which allows you to distribute your new composition via iTunes or a CD (see Figure 6–37).



**Figure 6–37.** *GarageBand's Track and Share menus*

Making proficient use of **GarageBand** requires practice. But above all else, it requires a bit of talent to make music good enough for you to land a recording contract. If you have the talent and that's your goal, **GarageBand** can help you do that. However, Apple also created this app for people who do not necessarily intend to create the next number one hit. For example, **GarageBand** is also for people who simply want to create, to experiment with music and sounds, to play with instruments and loops, and/or to find their hidden musical side. **GarageBand** is the premier application in the **iLife** suite; it has taken what was once a niche only-if-you're-rich hobby and made it into a universally accessible hobby that just about anyone can afford to participate in. Now go ahead and see what *roaring* tunes your Lion is capable of creating.

## Summary

Making the most out of the **iLife** suite requires that you find time to investigate your creative abilities. This suite can help you make something out of nothing or even make the something that already is into something else. Whether you want to make a movie, edit a photo to perfection, or create the next platinum album, the **iLife** suite can help

create media with endless possibilities. If you've ever wanted to see what it's like to produce a movie or orchestrate a concert, then **iLife** is for you.