

MUS 223 - Final Project

Due ONLINE by Friday, December 13 @ 5pm

For this project, you will create write a piece of music using a sequencing program (Logic, Ableton, etc.). If you decide to use other software, confer with me before you start the project to make sure everything you need is available in the software/your configuration.

The piece can include live instruments, performance, etc., but must follow these specifications (if you wish to do something creative that is limited by these specifications please talk to me! We can discuss changes if necessary):

- **Form:**

- ▶ **Length:** At least 3:00 (no more than 5) minutes long. You may repeat some segments of a track but do not repeat them *just* to fill up time. Substantial repetitions should add something new to the composition (new layer, filtering, etc.)
- ▶ **Formal Contrast:** There should be at least two instances of formal contrast (created via instrumentation, texture, rhythmic change, etc.). Each formal section should be a substantial part of the piece (don't just create two formal contrasts with 20 seconds left in the piece). If in doubt, just use a standard pop/rock song form (*i.e.* verse+chorus)

- **Instrumentation:** At least four individual tracks (a stereo track counts as one), each with a different patch/timbre/instrument. No more than 20 secs should have only 1 track playing (you can have more than 1 track with the same instrument/patch as long as you have more than 4 instruments).

- ▶ The tracks must include: At least one MIDI track, at least one audio recorded track
- ▶ Each track should play for at least 50% of the composition.
- ▶ Each track should have a descriptive name
- ▶ ***One patch should be your creation:*** You may create your own patch using a different program (VCVRack, Max, etc.) and import it into Logic, or you may modify an existing patch in Logic. If the latter, the patch should be substantially different from the original software patch.

- **Rhythm/timing characteristics:**

- ▶ Tempo and meter should be set properly: events should align with the metrical grid that is defined (*i.e.* don't write something in consistent groups of three and set it in a 4/4 grid)
- ▶ Rhythms should be decently timed: align with the metronomic beat either naturally or through quantization (*i.e.*, evidence of timing correction)

- **Mixing/Mastering/Effects:**

- ▶ **Mixing/Panning:** There should be substantial track mixing & panning (*i.e.*, not all tracks should be at the exact same volume level through more than 30 consecutive seconds, not all tracks should be panned to center though the majority of the piece)
- ▶ **Automated Volume:** There should be at least two instances of automation volume changes (you should use automation curves, not just change volume changes via change in number of instruments)
- ▶ **MIDI control activities:** At least one instance of some control activity not mentioned above (*e.g.*, use of automated modulation, pitch wheel, sustain pedal, pitch bend, breath control, etc.)

- ▶ **Effects:** At least two of the following effects should be used - phasing, reverb, flanger, chorus, delay, auto-tune, time shifting.
- ▶ **Filters:** At least two instances of filtering (each more than a few seconds). This can be a general filter across the entire track, applied to a single instrument, or sweeping. It should be a stand-alone filter (separate from an effect module) and cannot be part of the software's original patch.

You may recycle materials from your previous work in this class as needed. You may also use samples (excerpts from other music) but you MUST cite the original author, etc in your written report (see below).

To turn in

You will submit three items: A) the final mastered soundfile, B) a project file (from whatever program you used), and C) a written report.

For the written report -

- ▶ **A short description of the piece (c. 300 words), including a TITLE:** Was there any motivation behind the work or are you telling a story? If there's a story, detail the unfolding of the tale, representations, etc.
- ▶ **General overview of your techniques:** A rubric will be made available for you to fill in to detail each of the above project requirements. For certain information, you will be required to fill things in like filter frequency cutoffs, patch specifics, timing, etc.
- ▶ **Any extra materials you need to include:** accompanying art, musical notation, performance set-up instructions, song lyrics, etc.

For the soundfile/project files -

1. Create a folder named **YourlastnameFinalProject** in your DropBox account on Isidore.
2. Submit two files in that folder:
 - Export a single 16-bit WAVE audio file (name it: YourlastnameFinalProject.wav)
 - *If using Logic:* save project files as a folder and compress the files into a single .zip file to upload to Isidore (YourlastnameFinalProject.zip)
 - *If using other sequencing software:* save the project file(s). This may save as a single file or multiple folders. Try to compress all of the required files into a single .zip file (make sure all of the dependent files are also saved - *confer with me or the manual to double check how to do this!!!*)

We will have class time to work on this project during the week of December 1. However, it is likely that you will need to work on this project outside of class hours. You may use your own sequencer or Logic. The MALL is also available for use outside of class time (check posted times for hours). If you are using your own sequencer, you are welcome to bring your laptop or tablet to class to work during class hours.

You can use different software: i.e. you can always work on the audio track in Audacity (filtering, etc.) and then import that file into Logic. (If you do this, the filtering, etc. will be a permanent part of the "audio" track in Logic). Submit a project file for the work done on Audacity as well.

Note of caution: While Logic is a "big brother" of Garageband, the two programs don't always work well together. This is specially true for Garageband on iOS (even when going back to a desktop-version of Garageband). So be careful if you start work on one program and hope to continue on another!!!