

Tips for Programme Notes

We assume you have followed the general mixing guidelines outlined in the lectures. In your programme notes we would like to know where you have gone beyond these.

Tell us:

- how you have used reference tracks to shape your mix
- where you have used different mixing styles based on your background reading
- the historical context of the track/genre and mixed appropriately
- where you have produced more than one version of a song that allows the artist to select their preferred style
- your personal methodology and thought processes throughout a mix

Alongside any technical research you have conducted, it is also important to understand the artist, the genre and the context in which the song exists. So it is also advised to include the following:

- Brief intro to the composer/artist
 - o Who they are.
 - o What their usual genre is and does this song fit within that bracket
- A section about the songs context and the circumstances surrounding its composition/performance
 - o Where the song was recorded
 - o When the song was recorded
 - o Why the song was recorded
- A description of the song itself
 - o Historical Background (political influences, technical influences, other influences)
 - o Don't use too much technical language (remember this section is an overview)
 - o Avoid poetic description
 - o Keep the information relevant and interesting
- Listen to other works by the composer and their contemporaries and make reference to them if necessary
- Use reliable, up-to-date sources

It is important to be clear when writing programme notes so please:

- Use timestamps
- Use reference tracks
- Use concise language
- Use quotes and include background reading (forums/books/magazines/youtube/etc)
- Use screenshots of your session where necessary