

Introduction

We are creatives. We have a need, a yearning to produce material that moves others and ourselves. As musicians and arrangers of musical content we use our ability to play an instrument, or direct somebody else, to produce a body of music.

In our age the computer and relevant software are as much an artist's tool as the paint brush and canvas was to a visual artist or a score manuscript to a composer. It is how we use these tools, crafting and honing technique through study and practice, trial and error, and watching and interacting with others, that we craft a unique voice in our own music.

Logic Pro is a piece of intelligent software that aids us in our aim to produce the sounds we hear in our heads. It has developed over time, becoming easier and simpler to use for both beginners and professionals alike, to realise their creations. A barrier still remains between us and the virtual world of sound and computers, but our aim is to shorten the bridge between our ideas and their realisation. And smooth over those technical barriers that hamper our creativity.

Two catch words you are going to be hearing from me over the course of our sessions are efficiency and workflow. By being efficient with the way you work, keeping potential stumbling blocks to a minimum, we can ensure a smooth flow of work, staying focussed, working fast and realising those ideas the way they were intended the moment they entered our brains.

To work at this level though one needs to put into practice some elements that will bring about this smooth ride. This is as much a lesson in mindfulness and and theory of the human condition as it is a lesson in how to use Logic Pro!

Logic has a plethora of features, and ways of performing certain functions. Depending on the way you work, you'll find the ones that benefit you. There is no need, and indeed no value in knowing how everything works. You do not need to become a Logic ninja (Sorry David E!), or a protools ninja nor an Ableton Ninja.

At an intermediate level, you will more or less know your way around the program, understand basic signal flow, how to connect a guitar, a microphone or a midi keyboard, and can implement some musical knowledge you may already know to create music. The challenge now lies in exploring the most efficient use of Logic's features to better your creative output and up your game.

Learning shortcuts and key commands, setting up working templates for writing and mixing, delving into logic's sound production tools and using the midi and audio editing features to further enhance your creations are all key features of this course. Technical in their nature, but ones that are going to help keep you in the zone.

But by far the more important aspects are not Logic related at all. These are things you could learn from a life coach or a motivational speaker. Catch phrases like vi-

sualisation, experimentation and intent. You could be asking yourself then perhaps why am I here? I thought this guy was going to teach me logic pro....bla bla bla....

Well I'm going to teach you how to create with intent and not idly noodle when you are experimenting. I'll show you how to express yourself with the tools at your disposal, by spending time before you begin, creating a palette of sounds relevant to your ideas. We'll talk about keeping the inspiration, or finding it, by using specific tools that can spark the imagination.

We'll go through various production techniques and learn to hear what our finished piece will sound like before it's finished.

Above all else, music is an ethereal but very tangible thing. It touches our soul, gives you goosebumps and can move its' listeners. As such it is a product, a material one that takes time to craft. Likewise honing the practices, tools and concepts used to create it.

The creative process although boundless and formless in itself- "there are no rules"- can be streamlined if framed in the right context. Whatever style or genre of music you write in or enjoy listening to, there is a framework in which an arrangement is based on. You can be free to express yourself and experiment within this frame like a child playing in the safety of a sandbox.

But because the creative impulse is so fleeting, it's vital that we're able to actually get music made when ideas come. This means making sure that everything we'll need to work is set up and ready to go beforehand, so that we can focus when we need to.

The term Rise en place (roughly translated from French as 'put in Place', comes from the culinary world and refers to the careful preparation that goes into setting the physical (and mental) space prior to the actual work of cooking. This means making sure that the tools and ingredients you'll need are easily at hand, the kitchen is clean and safe for use, and you've thought ahead to the end of the recipe to ensure that nothing unexpected will stop you once you've started.

(Making Music-Dennis DeSantis-2015)