

Professional Practice (ADAD5002)

Throughout the project especially during meetings, it was interesting hearing groups of students who don't usually work together come together and share ideas. My contributions to the discussions were often responses to other people's ideas. I often missed production meetings, but this wasn't on purpose. In our group chat it wasn't clear and what type of meeting was on, as well as meetings often crashed with my student support sessions. Earlier in the project applied drama discussed their projects and meetings in the group chat that did lead to some confusion earlier whether music tech should be there or not. Because of this I turned up to a few meetings that weren't part of Professional Practice.

During the project I worked on writing arrangements for the choir to sing to. I worked on Jingle Bells and Rudolph the red nosed reindeer. This was my first-time creating arrangements and because of this it took me a while to complete. With Rudolph there were changes needed to be done with the tempo before the choir were happy with it. In the end after the first performance on the parade, my arrangement for Jingle Bells was cut and replaced with a backing track version from YouTube. I wasn't made aware of any problems with the arrangement but listening to the version they currently use I believe it's a much better arrangement. During the writing I did spend a significant amount of time on Rudolph the red nosed reindeer than I did on jingle bells. Possibility if I spent more time it would have turned out better but I was under time restraints so the choir would have enough time to practice.

As well as writing arrangements I also came to a few of the performances. The parade and the train station performance on the 6th of December. During the parade performance I opted out of standing on the parade truck due to it looking full. Another performance I did partake in handling the sound and then the collection buckets. I should have attended more and if this project was done again, I would have.

I have also helped with recording the choir on a few occasions, all in the BBC building hall. The first recording we used an ambisonic microphone that captured the choir in all directions. The second recording Ash Evans started the setup of the microphones. We used the PA in the hall to play the backing track for the choir to sing to, the reasoning behind this was to make the choir sound fuller during live performances. We came across two problems during this session and because of that these recordings weren't used. The first problem was that one of the singers wasn't singing with the choir and the second problem was that microphones were set up so that it was facing the PA. Luckily, I noticed this early during recording and moved the choir and microphones, in the end the choir felt like the recordings weren't suitable.

I haven't been the most productive member in this group, throughout the majority of the project I was unsure where and when I could help with things, when turning up for meetings I'd see and ask if I can do anything and then do it.