DESN 275 Wk 8 Assignments – Spring 2018

Assignment #1: Loops

Using loops, **create 12-bar blues song**. Please use at least mostly different instruments/loops for each. We will do most of the 8-bar blues song in class. Before the blues form starts, we will add a little introduction to the song. Using the same loops as the main form, start with a 5 4 1 5# 5.

The 5# is one semitone above the 5, or 8 semitones up.

12-bar blues form: 1 4 1 1 4 4 1 1 5 4 1 5
12-bar pitch ½ steps: 0 5 0 0 5 5 0 0 7 5 0 7

Use four to five instruments. You need drums, a bass, a rhythm instrument like a guitar or keyboard, and a lead instrument so it isn't so boring. Or you could record your own lead vocal or instrumental track. The bass, rhythm, and lead loops all have to transpose together, measure by measure. Of course the drums don't have to change pitch or transpose, but they do need to change patterns once in a while so they don't become boring.

And of course you are going to mix these tracks for width and depth. Do they need EQ also? Probably not.   But listen. There are exceptions.

Not every loop you try will work for this. Many loops have chord changes built into them. For these first assignments we want to start with loops that stay on one chord. The Blues set of loops in Studio One all work together well. As a matter of fact, any of the loops within a Studio One category such as R&B or Pop or World, should work well together.

If you are using the free version of Studio One, you can use the Prime "soundest" that is a free download offered when you first use Studio One. You may have downloaded it already. If you are adding it, you may have to right-click on the soundest, and "open with" Studio One.

Alternative Source 1: Under Loops > on the class homepage, you will find the soundset files (plus extra ones!). And you will find many other individual loops that should work well.

#2: Loops

Using loops you think are appropriate for a scene, create a sound track with this form:
        1 1 2 2 1 1 6 6 4 4 1 1

• Pick <u>one</u> from the following scenes and communicate the appropriate "feel" or emotion using the tempo and choice of loops.

fashion show 80 bpm -a smooth groove
road trip, 125 bpm -blues, or rock & roll work here
night life   105 bpm -slower-paced, edgy, thick

• Use at least drums + three additional pitched tracks.

Assignment 3: Multi-track Mix

Choose from the basic tracks provided this week on drbraukmann.com. Mix and polish a stereo CD-quality song with the characteristics listed in style options below. Pick **one song** and **mix it in one style**. Be sure you put the style identifier in the file name you turn in. Example mixes are posted.

*Also include a **screen snapshot** of the final DAW settings. This may be more important that the sound file! Show the important settings in the mix panel view with inserts, effects, and FX channel sends visible. **I need to see details**. (Automation is <u>not</u> required, but could be impressive.)*

• **Style Option 1:** A classic **Nashville style mix**: personal, slightly warm EQ, light reverb, light compression and plenty of space for each instrument or voice to be heard. Each track has a natural sound.

• **Style 2 Option 2: "Commercial Mix" style** useable for AM radio format or TV commercial production, more-compressed, a bit more reverb and echo than Nashville, and stronger drums. Overall a *little* bright and slightly reduced low bass (under 80Hz).

• **Style 2 Option 3: "New York" style** useable for pop, highly-compressed, lots of effects such as reverb and chorus on individual tracks, punchy and aggressive, fat (+100Hz) drums. A bit of overall boost (1 dB may be enough) in the low and high ranges. Some extra effects on the lead tracks (whether vocal or instrumental) might be appropriate

Music Terminology

What is meant by *beat*?

What is meant by *tempo*?

What is a *measure*?

What is *meter*?

What in general is a musical *scale*?

Which type of musical scale generally creates a sad or pensive feeling in the listener?

What is meant by key?

What are the notes in the key of C major?

What is a half-step?

What is a simitone?

What is an octave?

How can you find the notes in C major on a musical keyboard?

If you were looking at a musical keyboard, could you say how many half-steps there were between any two notes on a C major scale?

In the studio cats system of musical notation, what do each of the numbers 1 through 8 represent in the key of C?

Chords for the blues are build on what three notes of a major scale?

What does it mean to transpose?

In the key of C, how many half-steps are there between the 1 and the 4? Between the 1 and the 5?

What does Quantize mean?

Loops
What is a loop?

How exactly do you transpose a loop event?

What is the difference between a loop and a short, recorded musical passage?

How would you make your own recorded measures into a loop?

Why is the "turn snap on" option in a DAW important when editing loops?

What is the difference between a *software instrument* loop, and a *real instrument loop*? Which makes it easy to edit individual notes?
(A#2: Software instrument)