

## Inspirational Syllabus for Private Lessons

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### What Gear Should I Buy

- What sound card or microphone should I get?
- Will buying a separate preamp improve my sound quality?
- Is it better to invest in a hardware compressor for recording?
- What will I gain from switching platform (PC/Mac)?
- What sequencer software is the best choice for my style of music?
- What MIDI keyboard should I get or should I get a controller?
- What monitors are the best value for money?
- Can I use a quality pair of headphones instead of loudspeakers?
- What plug-ins should I buy?

### Mixing

- How can I improve my mix even before I begin the actual mixing?
- In what order should I process the tracks?
- How do I make everything fit together in the mix?
- Where should I place instruments in the stereo image?
- How do I make something stand out in a natural way?
- How do I avoid a flat, distorted or lifeless mix?
- What is sum processing?
- How do I use busses and auxes in the most flexible way?
- Should I have plug-ins on the master bus while mixing?
- Will an analog summing mixer help my sound?
- When does it make sense to monitor in mono?

### Mastering

- How do I get loudness without squashing the music?
- Is it possible to do professional mastering without analog outboard?
- What is the difference between equalizing in mixing and mastering?
- What limiter is the best for the job?
- What is soft and hard clipping?
- Is multiband compression widely used in mastering?
- What is M/S technique used for in mastering?
- How do I make a master CD that follows the Red Book standard?
- What are the benefits of using ISRC on a commercial release?
- What are intersample peaks and how do I avoid them?

## Equalizer

- What is low cut/high pass/low shelf/parametric/bell/high shelf/low pass/high cut?
- When and how do I use the different types of equalizers?
- What is the Q value and how do I use it?
- What is resonance?
- Is there an easy method to remove annoying frequencies?
- How do I add coloration in a pleasant way?
- What are the main frequency areas in various instruments?
- How do I equalize tracks relative to each other?
- What is asymmetrical Q or Q link?
- What is a dynamic equalizer?
- What is phase linear and minimum phase equalizing?

## Compressor

- How do the various functions in a compressor actually work?
- How can I avoid pumping and breathing in the compressor?
- What is the difference between a compressor and a limiter?
- How do I use the compressor to shape my signal?
- How do I create more punch with a compressor?
- Should I use a compressor before or after the equalizer?
- What is low level compression?
- What does Peak and RMS detection mean?
- What is internal and external sidechain compression?
- How do I use parallel compression?
- Is multiband compression a good solution?

## Reverb and Delay

- How do I tweak reverb settings for the best results?
- Is there an easy method of finding the optimum predelay in a reverb?
- How do early reflections affect stereo placement in the mix?
- Should I insert reverb on the track or on a bus?
- Can I combine two different reverbs?
- What is convolution reverb?
- How do I set a stereo delay without messing up the sound?
- How do I use sidechain compressed delay?
- When is it better to use delay than reverb?

## Other Effects

- Should I use a stereo spreader to get a wider sound?
- How do I set the chorus, phaser or flanger effect?
- How do I get the T-Pain/Cher/Auto-Tune effect on my vocal?
- What guitar amp emulation plug-in is the best?
- Do plug-ins exist that will give me a more analog sound?
- How do I make cool filter sweep effects?
- How can I play notes and chords with the vocal using a vocoder?

## Vocal

- What is the best placement of the singer and the mic?
- Should I compress during recording?
- How do I set the de-esser for a natural sound?
- How do I avoid the vocal getting boomy or harsh?
- How do I get a wider vocal sound in the chorus?
- How should I treat dubs for the best sound?
- What is cardioid, omni, and supercardioid?
- What is the difference between a condenser and dynamic mic?
- Is it better to use metal or nylon in the popfilter?

## Drums

- How do I get more punch and slam in the drums?
- How do I program more realistic drums?
- What are groove templates and how do I use them?
- What sample CD has the best drums for my style of music?
- How do I get the drums to glue together?
- What tricks do the professionals use to get fat drums?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages to stacking drum sounds?

## Synthesizer

- What synthesizer has the best sounds for my style of music?
- Is it better to get a hardware than a software synthesizer?
- How do I program a particular sound?
- How do I get a wide synth sound that does not phase out?
- What does ADSR do since it can be found in all synthesizers?
- Can I insert plug-ins directly on the sound of my hardware synthesizer?

## Acoustics and Studio Construction

- How can I improve my existing room?
- How do I build my own bass traps?
- Where exactly should I put up acoustical treatment?
- Is foam a good choice of treatment?
- Is my room good enough for vocal recording?
- Can I use a reflection filter as an alternative when recording?
- Are there any viable alternatives to building an isolation booth?
- What can I do to keep my neighbours from complaining about noise?
- Where should I sit in the room and where do I place my speakers?
- Can I improve my bass response by adding a subwoofer?
- Will vibration absorbers give me a more focused sound field?

## Music Business

- How do I get my tracks on iTunes?
- How should we split the copyrights?
- How much should I charge for remixing a song?
- How do you calculate sales royalties based on PPD?

- How is a licensing deal different from a record deal?
- How do I get or negotiate a record deal with a major label?
- Is it free to make a cover version of a song?
- How many seconds may I freely sample of another song and use it in my own?

## **Logic Pro 9**

- How do I make a great starting template?
- How do I edit or make my own key commands?
- What exactly are all the various windows and menus for?
- What do all the different plug-ins do and how do I use them?
- How do I record and edit using Quick Swipe and Take Folders?
- How do I match the tempo or key of an existing song?
- How do I use the advanced hidden features in the Logic compressor?
- How do I make my own sounds in the EXS24 Sampler?
- What tricks can I use for recording or drawing track automation?
- How do I use the advanced quantize features?
- How do I make my own Groove Templates?