



## **DESKTOP PRODUCTION**

Welcome to the latest exciting and creative lessons here at Staves in music technology. There are 2 main routes throughout these lessons, the programming side of desktop production, and 'live' recording. Most of the levels throughout this booklet will be touched upon for both, however, upon first consultation a decision will be made as to which route is desired. Once this is established, certain levels will be looked at in more depth. Please note: mixing and mastering levels will be of similar depth in both routes. Also I must add, the levels are only guide lines, obviously if a student needs more compositional teaching then more time will be spent on that level as oppose to a student who wants to learn basic key skills in order to program a bass line over their recorded guitar parts! Also please note, students deciding on the live music route will have the opportunity to set up and record live instruments within lessons. (Bring plenty of blank discs so you can take the audio home for homework:)

## **LEVELS COVERED IN BOTH ROUTES:**

### **Level 1: Signal Flow**

- Signal Flow Between Devices
- Setting Up a Virtual Studio
- MIDI Signal Flow
- Studio Configuration
- Exercise: Configuring Your Studio
- Exercise: Configuring and Testing your sequencer
- Discussion: Tell me About Your Set-up
- Assignment: Designing Your Studio

### **Level 2: Introduction to Electronic Music Synthesizers**

- What's a Synthesizer?
- Discussion: Shopping for a Synthesizer
- Properties of Sound
- Pitch
- Exercise: The Oscillator--Signal Generation and Pitch
- Timbre
- Exercise: The Synthesizer Filter
- Loudness
- Exercise: The Synthesizer Amplitude Envelope
- Virtual Instruments
- Exercise: Loading a virtual instrument
- Exercise: editing within the vst
- Digital Samplers (exs24, halion)
- Assignment: Electronic Orchestration

### **Level 3: Introduction to MIDI Sequencing: Patterns and Recording in sequencer-**

- MIDI Messages
- Patterns in Music
- Creating Patterns
- Exercise: Entering a Basic Pattern
- Exercise: Adding Accents and Shuffle Feel
- Exercise: Creating Variations
- Building an Arrangement from Patterns
- Exercise: Sequencing Pattern Changes
- Exercise: Converting Patterns to a Sequence
- Exercise: Real-Time Recording --Playing Against a Drum Track
- Assignment: Sequencing Project

#### **Level 4: MIDI Sequencing**

- MIDI Sequencing
- Exercise: The Transport
- Exercise: The Tracks Window
- Exercise: Getting Ready to Record
- How a Sequencer Represents Time
- Exercise: Bars, Beats, and Subdivisions
- Real-Time Recording
- Exercise: Metronome Settings
- Real-Time Recording, Continued
- Exercise: Recording
- Record Modes: A Sequencer Is Not a Tape Recorder
- Exercise: Replace and Overdub
- Exercise: Loop Recording
- Exercise: Step Recording
- Assignment: Final Sequencing Project, Part 1

#### **Level 5: Editing MIDI Sequences**

- Editing MIDI Sequences
- Exercise: Tempo
- Exercise: Key
- Exercise: Velocity
- Exercise: Velocity Plug-In
- Exercise: Time Delay
- Exercise: Event-Level Editing
- Exercise: Fixing Mistakes
- Exercise: Correcting Timing
- Exercise: Correcting Durations
- Exercise: Correcting Dynamics
- Exercise: Editing Pitch
- Exercise: Cut/Copy/Paste Operations
- Editing in the Arrange Window
- Exercise: MIDI Mixing and Automation
- Assignment: Final Sequencing Project, Part 2

#### **Level 6: basic key skills (dependant upon the student)**

#### **Level 7: Compositional skills**

#### **Level 8: mixing, processing & effects.**

**Level 9: automation within sequencer, with effects, processing volume etc.**

### **Level 10: Effects Processing: Part 2**

- Dynamics Processing
- Exercise: Compressing the Bass Track
- Dynamic Processing, Continued
- Exercise: Gating
- Time-Based Effects
- Exercise: Delay
- Time-Based Effects, Continued
- Exercise: Doubling/Flanging/Chorus
- Reverb
- Exercise: Reverb on the Drums
- Assignment: Mix Practice
- Discussion: When Should You Use Effects?
- Assignment: Final Sequencing Project, Part 3

### **Level 11: Preparing Files for Distribution**

- Preparing Sequence Files for Distribution
- Exercise: Importing and Exporting Standard MIDI Files
- Posting Sequence Files on the Web
- Audio Distribution Formats
- Mastering
- Mastering Tools
- Exercise: Mastering for CD
- Exercise: Mastering for MP3
- Exercise: Practice Mastering
- Audio File Compression Overview
- Making MP3 Files