



MUSIC TECHNOLOGY LESSONS

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION/REQUIRMENTS

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Overview

Minimum computer specifications

It is possible to create music on all forms of computer whether it is a P.C., apple Mac or any type of lap top, however they will need specific minimum requirements for music composition/production. Listed below are these minimum requirements that your computer will need to accommodate you throughout your music technology lessons, making it possible for you to practise at home!

P.C./MAC/LAPTOP:

- 20 GB + hard drive (to store music on, the bigger the better!)
- MIN. 256MB ram (DDR) memory
- Processor speed of 1.8 ghz or over (the faster the processor, the more music you can fit into your tracks)
- A CD/R disk drive capable of burning cd's (to create your music and have it heard)
- A minimum requirement sound card (see page 6)
- 1 + USB port (for the connection of a music controller/keyboard)
- Internet connection (not really necessary however can benefit in music distribution)

Appropriate Software

Over the years music technology has developed at an astounding rate, and will keep on doing so for many years to come. As expected, with such developments come many different varieties of support through software. The lessons here at music rooms are designed to teach you the core information of music technology which is present in all forms of different types of software. At present there are around 5 major pieces of software used within the music industry that basically all do the same job (Logic, Cubase, Reason, Pro tools and Ableton live). It really does come down to personal preference. These software's offer the opportunity to input music, edit music, record music, mix music and some even to master music (the final process). Its just that each piece of software has different methods, screens, ease of use etc but the one thing they all have in common is the spine of music technology which is the key information needed to make the music. This is where the concentration lies at the music rooms, as once a pupil has the key information and ability to undertake these methods then it will be a case of personal preference as they progress.

The 2 key pieces of music software for both types of computers are:

- Logic pro audio 7.2 (more Mac)
- Cubase SX 3 (more P.C.)

One of these programmes installed on your computer in conjunction with the music rooms music technology lessons will give you the ability to get going and start getting creative! The price of these programmes can vary however for pupils on a budget there are toned down forms of these programmes that come at a much cheaper price offering just as much! (These will be perfect for learning on and are highly recommended)

- Logic express 7.2 (for Mac) £68.00 from www.it247.com
- Cubase SE 3 (for P.C.) £86.00 from <http://www.thomann.de/gb/index.html>

MUSIC CONTROLLERS/KEYBOARDS

This is what allows you to input music information into the computer. In the form of a musical keyboard the musician will play in the music and also has the ability to control virtually any sound and layer them over other sounds (you can create a drum beat then add over a bass guitar part). These devices are essential in music technology and you would not get far without one. As with the software there are many different varieties, but, at the end of the day, if they have keys on and a form of connecting it to your computer then we, at the music rooms will show you the rest. (There is actually a lesson dedicated to getting the perfect set up at home so you can obtain optimum control when out of lessons, see lesson stage plan)

The good thing about midi controllers is they are easily affordable. At the end of this section there is a highly recommended controller that is at the cheaper end of the market and is perfect to accommodate you throughout your creative processes with music through technology! (P.C./MAC/DESKTOP compatible)

Example:



M-audio 49 e £55.00 at

www.piedog.com

(Keep an eye out on ebay and the local papers as well. You may find a bargain!!)

SOUNDCARD

In order to compose and produce to the highest quality throughout music technology lessons here at the music rooms we highly recommend a semi pro audio sound card for your computer. This will not in anyway change your home/student computer other than improve the quality of music/videos/games etc.

In this case, a sound card (such as the example below) will provide the best sound for your music and will send it back out of your computer speakers/monitors without any delay (or as it is know in music, latency). Such a card will make it possible to input music through a music keyboard/controller (see page3) and assign different sounds to each of the parts with simplicity and zero delay. It also offers quality recording (microphones/guitars for example) which is a case of plug them in and begin recording through the appropriate software (see page 2).

EXAMPLE SOUND CARD- M-AUDIO AUDIOPHILE 2496



Award-winning 24-bit/96kHz digital audio card

- 2 x 2 full-duplex audio performance
- Gold-plated RCA jacks
- S/PDIF digital I/O with PCM and AC-3/DTS pass through
- 1 x 1 MIDI I/O

The Audiophile 2496 embodies a quantum leap in computer audio fidelity and performance unequalled by other audio cards in its price range. This critically acclaimed PCI card features premium digital audio converters; elegant board design and ultra-stable drivers just like the rest of the Delta line, but with a simpler I/O configuration. As a member of the Delta family, the Audiophile 2496 supports all computer platforms and major software programs, ensuring seamless integration and rock-solid performance. See why the Audiophile 2496 is one of the best-selling digital audio cards in the industry.



36-bit Embedded DSP

All Delta cards contain a 36-bit embedded DSP enabling a software-driven patch bay/router for all analogue and digital I/O—all with extremely fast throughput for low-latency software monitoring. A single unified control panel provides settings for clock and sample rates, buffer sizes, individual signal levels for every input and output, adjustable +4dBu/-10dBV pad controls and digital I/O control on up to four installed Delta cards. All controls are also easily accessible through most professional audio software applications for seamless integration and operation.

(Through extensive research this card can be purchased at www.dolphinmusic.co.uk for approx. £49.99)

OVERVIEW

Please see the lesson/stage plan for in depth detail of what the lessons offer and the different stages and processes it will take you through. I hope this booklet has given enough information in order to give you a basic understanding of what will be required to begin making music. Once you add up all of these items it may seem like a lot of money, I mean, not only do you have to pay for lessons, but all of this on top? Well, let us assure you, once this equipment is purchased it will provide all the gear you will need to compose music, record full songs, edit all of your music, then mix and master the music to a high quality over and over again!

To get started go online at www.stavesmusic tuition.co.uk or call us on 01257 255340 and we will happily answer any queries or questions you may have for us about the music technology lessons.