

Project #3

Sequencing (or Free Choice) Project

Due: Fri., Dec. 12, 11:59 pm

CHOOSE ONE of the following two project options:

1. **Sequencing Project**

Using free trial, low cost, or software you already own, compose (transcribe, or arrange) a 1-3 minute *time-based* composition using a DAW, tracker software, drum sequencer, etc. For example, you could create electronic music that would be appropriate for a film, a video game, a dance venue, a recording, a concert hall, etc.

2. **Free Choice; e.g.,**

- a. Audio Project
- b. Programming Project
- c. Synthesis Project
- d. Instrument Design Project
- e. Video Project
- f. Etc.

GUIDELINES

Option 1. Sequencing Project

Compose, transcribe, or arrange a 1-3 minute time-based composition

Links to free (and low cost) DAW trials are available on the class website under *Learning Sequencing*.

For students who are new to sequencing, the use of imported MIDI data (or a step sequencing approach) is highly recommended.

Project Proposal

Submit the Project #3 Project Proposal by Fri., Dec. 5, 11:59 pm. You will be asked to tell me what software you plan to use, what style you plan to work in (e.g., film music, game music, EDM, etc.), and how long you think your 1-3 min. sequence will be.

Project Guidelines

1. Use at least 4 different *instruments* (e.g., piano, guitar, bass, drums).
2. Edit key velocity values to create realistic-sounding instruments. Be sure to *quantize* and *humanize* as appropriate.
3. Tweak instrument settings to taste; i.e., try NOT use just default factory settings.¹
4. Add *effects* (e.g., delay, echo, compression, processing, etc.) to the instruments.
5. Add *reverb* to the master mix (or using other reverb strategies).
6. Using the techniques discussed in class (e.g., mixing, pan, master compression, spectrum EQ, etc.) to create a *well balanced* and *professional-sounding* stereo audio image.
7. You may use *loops* and *audio samples*, but the project will ideally be focused on *MIDI editing*.
8. Pay particular attention to your master signal levels before you bounce the final stereo mix. Check the bounce in Audacity to be sure the audio file has *appropriately balanced L/R signal levels* throughout.

Deliverables

Supporting paper (.docx) and audio file bounce of sequence (.wav)

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¹ Advanced students are encourage to explore the use of *automation* of controller information to add *expressivity* to their work.

Option 2. Free Choice

Project Proposal

Instructor permission is required for Option 2. Instructor permission is obtained by *speaking with your instructor* (after class, or via e-mail). Then complete the normal *project proposal* by Fri., Dec. 5, 11:59 pm. You will be asked to tell me what software you plan to use, describe what you plan to create, and describe what files you plan to submit (e.g., a .maxpat file, a .wav file, etc.)

Project Ideas

- Create an *Audio Project* that similar to Project #1 (but more advanced).
- Create a *Programming Project* that is similar to Project #2 (but more advanced).
- Create a *Synthesis Project* using MSP.
- Design a real-time interactive instrument using MSP.
- Another idea you have...

Deliverables

Supporting paper (.docx) and project files (as specified in your proposal)

Note on the use of generative AI for this project
You are allowed to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) for this project. If you use generative AI, you must cite the software you used, cite any text prompts you employed, provide the lyrics (if any), and tell me exactly where the AI-generated materials occurs in your supporting paper.

PROJECT SUBMISSION

Supporting Paper

For both project options, you must write a supporting paper (2-3 pages, typed, double-spaced, bullet-point style, with the usual header info² and bold subheadings) that provides a detailed explanation of the *technical* (e.g., your approach to instrumentation, effects, MIDI controller information, mixing, programming, real-time interaction, synthesis, etc.) and *artistic choices* you made and why you made them. Moreover, your project must have a *title*. At the beginning of your paper, introduce your project by explaining what the *title* is, what the title means, and describe your source of *inspiration* and/or *stylistic influences*.

Required File Submissions

Upload your .docx paper and project files into *Sequencing (or Free Choice) Project* Blackboard assignment by the deadline.

GRADING

Followed project guidelines (including project proposal process) – 50%

Supporting paper – 25%

- Clarity, detail and effort.; Technical and artistic process is fully documented

Creativity/Technique – 25%

- Accomplished technical goals
- Accomplished artistic goals
- Professional-sounding stereo audio image; e.g., use of pan, well-balanced mixing of the instruments, full audio signal, no clipping, etc.
- Etc.

² Your name, class name, and project name.