

Music 178: Computer Skills for Musicians

Winter 2008 / Sec. # 05008
Mon/Wed 1:10–2:00 p.m.
(Mark Phillips, Professor—on leave)

Luis Obregon, Instructor
lo107005@ohio.edu
Office: rm. 355, Glidden Hall

The primary function of this course is to teach music majors the basics of how to use computers for music-related tasks they will encounter throughout their studies and careers: MIDI sequencing, music notation, digital audio recording. Lab projects will comprise the bulk of the work, with students completing several small-scale projects and one Final Project to demonstrate their mastery of basic skills covered in this course.

Course Outline (lecture topics subject to modification!)

- Week 1** MIDI Lab Workstation Basics: Introduction to MIDI sequencing using MOTU's *Digital Performer* software (DP5) — recording simple MIDI sequences using General MIDI presets, adjust playback/record speed, copy, cut, paste, shift, transpose, contextual “Balloon” Help, etc.
- Week 2** More DP5 MIDI sequencing: graphic & notation editing windows, step record, loops, other “Region” menu items
- Week 3** More DP5 MIDI sequencing: click options & quantizing; conductor track; mixing board
>>>>> optional rough draft of DP5 mini-project due 1/23 <<<<<<
- Week 4** Introduction to Computer Music Notation using MakeMusic's *Finale* software— simple note entry, “speedy” note entry, Staff Tool, Setup Wizzard, simple editing features, contextual “Help”
>>>>> DP5 mini-project due 1/30 <<<<<<
- Week 5** More *Finale* Basics: articulation & expression markings, templates, music spacing, etc.
>>>>> approval of *Finale* mini-project proposal due 2/6 <<<<<<
- Week 6** More *Finale*: page layout, Lyric & Text Tools, HyperScribe, exporting graphics to word processor
>>>>> rough draft of *Finale* mini-project due 2/13 <<<<<<
- Week 7** Introduction to Jazz/Popular Music Production & Education MIDI software — *Band-In-A-Box* Standard MIDI File Format (importing and exporting Standard MIDI files)
>>>>> *Finale* mini-project due 2/20 <<<<<<
- Week 8** Introduction to *Garage Band 2*
>>>>> *Band-In-A-Box* mini-project due 2/27 <<<<<<
- Week 9** More on *Garage Band* — QUIZ
- Week 10** TBA
>>>>> rough draft of Final Project due 3/12 (DP5, *Finale*, & /or *Garage Band*)
- Final** **Friday March 21, at 12:20 p.m.** (regularly scheduled exam time)
Final Project due (DP5, *Finale*, & /or *Garage Band*)
attendance is required at scheduled exam time for in-class presentation of final projects

Grading Policy: Grades will be determined primarily by the quality and timeliness of the mini-projects and especially by the final project. In addition, there will be a 40-point quiz. Attendance will account for part of your grade as well. Academic dishonesty will result in class grade of F.

3 mini-projects: 50 + 60 + 40 = 150 pts. **final project:** 70 pts. **quiz:** 40 pts. **attendance:** 20 pts.
draft submissions: 10 [*Finale* mini- proj.] + 10 [final proj.] = 20 pts. [plus extra 10 bonus pts. possible]
total points: 300 pts. [plus 10 bonus pts. for extra draft submissions]

Mini Project Guidelines

Below are some ideas to use as guidelines for the three mini-projects. These are designed to encourage experience and minimum competency with three basic types of music software. Expectations are modest. Students are not expected to master all of the intricacies and complexities of the software, but merely demonstrate an understanding of the basics of the program.

Students are encouraged to submit drafts of their work for evaluation and suggestions whenever possible. You can turn in work after any session where you've saved work towards completion of a project. In addition to receiving extra credit for these draft submissions, they will likely improve your grade on the project. It is *required* that students turn in at least one draft of the *Finale* music notation mini-project.

Mini-Project 1: *Digital Performer 5*

>>>(optional draft due: 1/23 **due: 1/30** <<<

- Create a short multi-timbral General MIDI sequence using *DP5* and the Korg 0/5RW with...
 - >at least three tracks (more is better) using multiple instrument timbres.
 - >original composition or arrangement is encouraged, but not required
 - >all “patches” saved w/ sequence (use “Default Patch” or use “Insert...Patch Change” in Event window)
 - >drums, if used, on MIDI channel 10
 - >synchronized to click track with effective use of step record, &/or quantization
 - >ca. 1-2 min. duration.

Mini-Project 2: *Finale*

>>> **due: 2/6** (proposal approved), **2/13** (draft), & **2/20** (completed) <<<

- Input the material to create a lead sheet version of a standard pop song (your own, or a copy).
- Transcribe a few pages of music notation (i.e. duet, trio, piano music, or lead sheet)

NOTE: You *must* turn in a rough draft of this project. When completed it should resemble “real” music notation. This means expression markings, proper page formatting and spacing, etc.

Mini-Project 3: *Band-in-a-Box*

>>> **due: 2/27** <<<

- Create a pop song “lead sheet” or use sheet music or a “fake book” — (do not use an existing song file)
 - >enter chord symbols
 - >choose appropriate style, set appropriate tempo, set up repeats
 - > record melody (*optional*)
 - >Do “Save Song” (Under File Menu) to save BIAB file of your Project.
 - >Do “Save MIDI File” (Under File Menu) to create a Standard MIDI File of your project
- Use *DP5* to “enhance” your project
 - > Launch *DP5* and Close *Untitled* (under File menu)
 - >Do “Open” (under File menu) and look for the SMF of your project; then save as *DP5* file
 - >record melody (if you didn't already do it in BIAB)
 - >add 1–2 tracks of additional material in *DP5* (improvised solo, background riffs, percussion, etc.)

Final Project Guidelines:

due: 3/12 (draft) **3/21** (final)

Choose one of the following options — best to get specific project approval from instructor before beginning.

- 1) a *DP5* project (an original composition or a transcription/arrangement of existing music)
- 2) a *Garage Band* project (an original composition or a transcription/arrangement of existing music)
 - >longer, more elaborate, and more musically developed than mini-project 1 or 2
 - >may use *Band-in-a-Box* to generate some (but not all) of the project
 - >must have several tracks with different instruments set up on each track
 - >should be well-synchronized to a click track (if appropriate to the style of music)
 - >Bonus Final Step: create audio mix in *DP5* and burn a CD

- a *Finale* project — more elaborate than mini-project. ****NOTE: Project must be approved before hand!**
 - >option 1: transcription of several pages of moderately difficult piano music
 - >option 2: transcription of a couple of pages of a large open score, with part extraction when appropriate
 - >must look reasonably professional (like “real” music notation) when completed

NOTE: You can use SMF format to convert from other programs into *Finale*, if you desire.