

2025 Unit 10: Digital Music Mastery: Advanced Composition, Production, and Performance Technology Copied from: Advanced Instrumental, Copied on: 08/04/25

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Digital Music Mastery: Advanced Composition, Production, and Performance Technology

This unit empowers students to develop advanced musical computer literacy, seamlessly integrating technology into composition, performance, and production. Students explore sophisticated sequencing methods and use Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) to craft structurally and expressively coherent works. Emphasis is placed on refining keyboard technique on both acoustic and electronic instruments, enhancing expressive interpretation. The curriculum covers comprehensive skills in managing recording sessions, mixing, mastering, routing, and applying digital effects to achieve professional-quality sound. Students will also develop expertise in music notation software to create publishable scores. Integrating music theory, history, and ear training enriches students' analytical capabilities and informs their creative processes. Furthermore, students research music professions, contextualizing their skills within the evolving musical landscape, preparing them for diverse careers in music technology and performance.

Learning Objectives

- Students will accurately demonstrate and apply routing techniques for inputs, outputs, sends, and returns within recording software to optimize signal flow and sound quality.
- Students will accurately demonstrate and synthesize knowledge and skills in music theory, music history, and ear training to inform sophisticated musical analysis and performance.
- Students will accurately produce and apply music notation and printing techniques at a publisher's professional quality standard.
- Students will apply advanced recording techniques, selecting and executing optimal methods to capture high-quality audio across diverse settings.
- Students will conduct detailed research into historical and contemporary music professions, demonstrating the ability to analyze, compare, transcribe, transpose, compose, and contextualize findings within the broader musical landscape.
- Students will demonstrate advanced proficiency in navigating and utilizing recording software, applying complex functions to support creative and technical goals.
- Students will demonstrate expertise in operating music production interfaces, integrating hardware and software seamlessly in the creative process.
- Students will demonstrate increasing musical computer literacy by critically exploring and confidently integrating available technology to enhance composition, performance, and production.
- Students will demonstrate mastery in mixing and mastering audio and MIDI within recording software to produce polished, professional-quality sound.

- Students will expertly demonstrate and apply comprehensive skills using Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) for composition, arrangement, recording, and production.
- Students will master the use of basic and advanced software controls, effectively manipulating parameters to shape sound and production outcomes.
- Students will proficiently create and manage recording software sessions, demonstrating professional workflow and organizational skills.
- Students will proficiently demonstrate and apply advanced keyboard techniques on piano or electronic keyboards, integrating technical skill with expressive interpretation.
- Students will proficiently demonstrate and apply advanced sequencing techniques as compositional and arranging tools, creating structurally and expressively coherent musical works.
- Students will proficiently mix, bounce, and export audio, MIDI, and video files, applying technical precision and artistic judgment.
- Students will proficiently use virtual instruments and plug-ins to create rich, expressive musical textures within digital production environments.
- Students will skillfully use plug-ins and digital effects to edit and mix audio, enhancing the artistic and technical quality of recordings.

Essential Skills

- Analyze stylistic and historical contexts to inform composition and performance.
- Apply advanced sequencing techniques to compose and arrange music effectively.
- Apply critical listening skills to evaluate production quality and musicality.
- Apply effective time management and project planning in digital music production.
- Bounce, export, and prepare audio, MIDI, and video files for various platforms.
- Collaborate digitally on music projects using cloud-based platforms.
- Compose and notate music digitally with publisher-quality standards.
- Conduct research on music industry careers and current trends.
- Demonstrate advanced keyboard techniques on acoustic and electronic keyboards.
- Edit audio tracks using plug-ins and digital effects to enhance sound quality.
- Integrate live performance techniques with digital setups.
- Integrate music theory, history, and ear training knowledge into digital composition and analysis.
- Manipulate basic and advanced software controls to shape sound design.
- Master audio mastering techniques for polished final productions.
- Mix audio and MIDI tracks balancing technical precision and artistic intent.
- Navigate and utilize a variety of digital music technologies confidently and critically.
- Operate music production hardware interfaces alongside software tools seamlessly.
- Present findings on historical and contemporary music professions effectively.
- Record audio and MIDI tracks using optimal techniques for clarity and quality.
- Reflect on personal growth in music technology proficiency and artistic expression.
- Route inputs, outputs, sends, and returns efficiently within recording software.
- Set up and manage DAW sessions with professional workflow and organization.
- Transcribe and transpose musical works accurately within digital platforms.

- Troubleshoot technical issues in music production environments.
- Use virtual instruments and plug-ins to create diverse and expressive sonic textures.

Standards

MU.9-12.1.3E.12adv.Cr1a	Generate melodic, rhythmic and harmonic ideas for compositions and improvisations that incorporate digital tools and resources.
MU.9-12.1.3E.12adv.Cr3a	Develop and implement varied strategies and apply appropriate criteria to improve and refine the technical and expressive aspects of draft compositions and improvisations.
MU.9-12.1.3E.12adv.Cr3b	Share a portfolio of musical creations representing varied styles and genres that demonstrates musical and technological craftsmanship as well as the use of digital and/or analog tools and resources in developing and organizing musical ideas.
MU.9-12.1.3E.12adv.Pr4a	Develop and apply criteria to select varied programs to study and perform based on interest, an understanding of the musical characteristics, expressive challenges in the music, and the performer's musical skill using digital tools and resources.
MU.9-12.1.3E.12adv.Pr4b	Examine, evaluate and critique how context, musical aspects of the composition and digital media/tools inform prepared and improvised performances.
MU.9-12.1.3E.12adv.Pr4c	Demonstrate how understanding the style, genre, context, and integration of digital technologies in a varied repertoire of music informs and influences prepared and improvised performances and their ability to connect with audiences.
MU.9-12.1.3E.12adv.Pr5a	Apply appropriate criteria as well as feedback from multiple sources and develop and implement varied strategies to improve and refine the technical and expressive aspects of prepared and improvised performances in varied programs of music.
MU.9-12.1.3E.12adv.Pr6a	Integrating digital and analog tools and resources, demonstrate an understanding and attention to technical accuracy and expressive qualities of the music in prepared and improvised performances of a varied repertoire of music representing diverse cultures, styles, genres, and historical periods.
MU.9-12.1.3E.12adv.Re7a	Select, describe and compare a variety of musical selections based on characteristics and knowledge of the music, understanding of digital and electronic aspects, and the purpose and context of the works.
MU.9-12.1.3C.12adv.Re7a	Use research and personally developed criteria to justify choices made when selecting music, citing knowledge of the music and individual and ensemble purpose and context.
MU.9-12.1.3C.12adv.Re7b	Demonstrate and justify how the analysis of structures, contexts and performance decisions inform the response to music.
MU.9-12.1.3E.12adv.Re7b	Justify (by using examples) how an analysis of the structural characteristics, context, and technological and creative decisions, informs interest in and response to the music.
MU.9-12.1.3E.12adv.Re8ea	Examine and cite research from multiple sources to connect the influence of the elements of music, digital and electronic features, context, purpose, and other art forms to the expressive intent of musical works.
MU.9-12.1.3E.12adv.Re9a	Develop and justify the evaluation of a variety of music based on established and personally developed criteria, digital, electronic and analog features, and understanding of purpose and context.
MU.9-12.1.3B.12adv.Cn10a	Demonstrate how interests, knowledge and skills related to personal choices and intent when creating, performing and responding to music.
MU.9-12.1.3B.12adv.Cn10a	Demonstrate how interests, knowledge, and skills related to personal choices and intent when creating, performing, and responding to music.
MU.9-12.1.3B.12adv.Cn11a	Demonstrate understanding of relationships between music and the other arts, other disciplines, varied contexts, and daily life.

Instructional Tasks/Activities

DAW Navigation Workshop: Guided sessions on setting up, recording, editing, and mixing in a DAW.

Sequencing Composition Labs: Create original compositions using advanced sequencing techniques.

Keyboard Technique Practice: Focused exercises on expressive playing with acoustic and electronic keyboards.

Mixing and Mastering Clinics: Hands-on practice mixing multitrack sessions and mastering final mixes.

Routing Tutorials: Demonstrate input/output routing, sends, and returns within recording software.

Plug-in Exploration: Experiment with various audio effects and virtual instruments in projects.

Notation Software Assignments: Compose and format music scores using digital notation tools.

Transcription and Transposition Projects: Transcribe and transpose pieces digitally to deepen theoretical understanding.

Historical Music Professions Research: Students research and present on careers in music technology and performance.

Critical Listening Sessions: Analyze professional recordings focusing on production techniques.

Collaborative Online Projects: Use cloud-based platforms for group composition and production tasks.

Performance Integration: Combine live instrument or vocal performance with digital backing tracks or effects.

Audio Recording Setup: Hands-on activity setting up microphones and recording equipment.

Project Planning and Time Management: Develop a workflow plan for a complete production project.

Reflective Technology Journaling: Document learning progress and technical challenges in digital music production.

- Audio Recording Setup
- Collaborative Online Projects
- Critical Listening Sessions
- DAW Navigation Workshop
- Historical Music Professions Research
- Keyboard Technique Practice
- Mixing and Mastering Clinics
- Notation Software Assignments
- Performance Integration
- Plug-in Exploration
- Project Planning and Time Management
- Reflective Technology Journaling
- Routing Tutorials
- Sequencing Composition Labs

- Transcription and Transposition Projects

Assessment Procedure

- classwork/homework
- DAW Project Submission
- Exit Ticket/Entrance Ticket/Do Now
- Notation Portfolio Review
- participation in performance
- peer observation
- Performance Evaluation
- Research Presentation
- Teacher observation
- Technical Skills Test
- tests/quizzes

Recommended Technology Activities

- Chromebook
- Collaborative Composition Platforms
- GarageBand Recording Projects
- Google Classroom
- Google Docs
- Google Forms
- Google Slides
- Interactive Ear Training
- Kahoot
- MagicSchool AI
- Mixing Practice in DAWs
- MuseScore/Noteflight Composition Assignments
- Other- Specified in Lesson
- Quiziz
- Recording Studio Simulation
- Rhythm and Pitch Games
- Screencastify
- Transcribe with Slow-Down Software
- Video Tutorials
- Virtual Keyboard Exercises

Accommodations & Modifications & Differentiation

Accommodations and Modifications should be used to meet individual needs. Their IEP and 504 plans should be used in addition to the following suggestions.

Gifted and Talented

- Compare & Contrast
- Conferencing
- Debates
- Jigsaw
- Peer Partner Learning
- Problem Solving
- Structured Controversy
- Think, Pair, Share
- Tutorial Groups

Instruction/Materials

- alter format of materials (type/highlight, etc.)
- color code materials
- eliminate answers
- extended time
- extended time
- large print
- modified quiz
- modified test
- Modify Assignments as Needed
- Modify/Repeat/Model directions
- necessary assignments only
- Other (specify in plans)
- other- named in lesson
- provide assistance and cues for transitions
- provide daily assignment list
- read class materials orally
- reduce work load
- shorten assignments
- study guide/outline

- utilize multi-sensory modes to reinforce instruction

Environment

- alter physical room environment
- assign peer tutors/work buddies/note takers
- assign preferential seating
- individualized instruction/small group
- modify student schedule (Describe)
- other- please specify in plans
- provide desktop list/formula

Resources

- handouts
- SoundTrap
- Garage Band
- Google Classroom
- instruments
- Logic
- Music Theory texts
- MusicFirst
- Noteflight
- Pro Tools
- screen recordings
- The internet
- Tonesavvy
- virtual instruments
- whiteboard