

Music Technology Major: Recording Engineering & Digital Audio Production

I am proposing a self-determined major in music production and composition. Skidmore College does not offer this major and the standard music major is not focused enough for the study that I would like to pursue. Upon completion of this major I will possess the skills to compose, digitally mix and master, engineer, edit, and record digital and analog projects. My first two years at Skidmore have allowed me to delve into numerous fields of study, which have always been of interest. Now however, with an overwhelming passion for music technology (and all music for that matter), I have created a major that will allow me to integrate my course of study and my love of music.

The core of my proposed major will consist of the music technology courses offered by the college, especially the more advanced topics courses and independent studies that will allow me to specialize and master those aspects of music production that I am most interested in. I will augment the technology aspect of the major with the college's run of music theory courses, and with several performance courses that focus on the study of the piano and drum kit. I think it's quite clear that anyone wishing for a career in today's music production industry should have a firm grasp of music theory and instrumentation, particularly when one is interested in electronic composition. Furthermore, a historical background in Western music can only enrich my understanding and appreciation of music in general, thereby making me a more mature musician. I am confident that the curriculum I have proposed will more than prepare me for this career, and will aid me immeasurably in composing my own music.

Although the college's regular music major is comprehensive, I am proposing this self-determined major in order to gain the freedom, flexibility, and focus that it would afford my studies. As previously stated, I think it is in my best interest to make the most of this college education, and as far as I am concerned, to do this requires a major that is specifically tailored to my needs and interests.

In order to be a skilled composer, one must first possess a fundamental understanding of music theory. To this end, Rudiments of Music (MU101), the Materials and Structures sequence (MU151, MU152, MU251, MU252), Music and Culture (MU208), Class Study of Jazz Piano (MP195), Class Study of Piano I (MP191), and Keyboard Skills (MP197) are all essential courses in this major—they provide the foundation for the rest of my course study. Of particular importance will be the Aural skills course (MU107), which will help me to hone my listening skills, so that I am able to identify notes and key signatures upon hearing them. The music technology sequence (MU255, MU353) and Topics in Recording Engineering and Computer Music Technology (MU361) are of equal importance, for they will provide the basic skills and techniques involved in electronic music composition. In order to put my studies into application, I also see it appropriate to do a Senior Project in Music Technology (MU376).

Independent studies will allow me to pin point specific areas of knowledge—analog recording, for example—and improve significantly in those areas. By taking independent study courses in Electronic composition (MU371) and

Contemporary/Analog Recording Methods (MU372), I will be better prepared for the professional work environment. To this end, I will also take a Professional Internship in Music (MU399).

Moreover, the proposed introductory business courses will give me an overview of business management and marketing—both of which are important aspects of a career as a producer. As a producer, I will surely be faced with managing and developing creative ways to market my product, or, even if I am not in charge of marketing, I want to be knowledgeable so that I be best prepared for this aspect of my career. Thus, taking Business Organization and Management (MB107), Foundations of Marketing (MB214), Consumer Behavior (MB313), and Advertising and Promotion (MB337) will prepare me for the more political side of the industry.

We, (3 names listed here) have and continue to work efficiently as a team with not similar, but the same aspirations. Together we have already co-written numerous compositions and have dedicated a significant amount of time to the preparation of our future careers. We have been mastering the use of professional equipment such the Akai MPC 4000x1, the Korg Triton Studio, and midi production software such as Reason 2.5. With the studies provided by our specific course selections, and extracurricular work under the supervision of Anthony Holland, we will become familiar with digital editing and mastering software. Such software as Pro-tools, offered at Skidmore facilities, is currently the standard music production technology of professionals in the industry.

List of Proposed Courses:

Music Dept.

MU101- Rudiments of Music

MU107- Aural Skills

MP191- Class Study of Piano

MU195- Class Study of Jazz Piano

MP197- Keyboard Skills

MU208- Music and Culture

MU151, 152- Materials and Structures of Western Music I (3)

MU251, 252- Materials and Structures of Western Music II (3)

MU255- Music Technology I: Introduction to Electronic Music, Composition, and Recording Studio Techniques (3)

MU 353- Music Technology II: Advanced Electronic Music, Composition, and Recording Studio Techniques (3)

MU371- Independent Study Music: Electronic Composition (3)

MU372- Independent Study Music: Contemporary/Analog Recording Methods (3)

MU376- Senior Project in Music Technology (3)

MU399- Professional Internship in Music (3, 6, 9)

MUXXX- Private Music Instruction (2)

Business Dept.

MB107- Business Organization and Management

MB214- Foundation of Marketing

MB313- Consumer Behavior

MB337- Advertising and Promotion

Physics Dept.

PY251- Special Topics in Physics: Sound and Music (4)

Courses According to Semester of Study (tentative)

Summer 2003

MU255

Fall 2003

MU251

MP281

MB337

MU371

Spring 2004

MU252

MU353

MP191

MB313

Fall 2004

MU107

MU361

MU372

Spring 2005

MU399

MU376

Overview of Significant Courses-**MU151-252 Materials and Structures in Western Music****Instructors: Deborah Rohr, TBA**

This series of courses teaches music theory and basic music history from Gregorian Chant to the 20th century.

MU255,353- Music Technology I & II**Instructor: Anthony Holland**

These courses cover the basics of music recording, production, engineering and computer music.

MU371- Electronic Composition**Instructor: Anthony Holland**

This independent study will be a study of techniques used in the composition of computer music, with a particular emphasis on audio and MIDI Sequencing, and audio synthesis as a compositional tool.

MU372- Contemporary/Analog Recording Methods**Instructor: Anthony Holland**

This course will be a study of modern recording methods, with an emphasis on digital recording through Pro Tools, and more traditional analog methods of recording.

MU399- Professional Internship in Music

This will be a professional internship helping to extend my educational experience to a real world work environment.

MB337- Advertising and Promotion

This course examines advertising and promotion principles from an integrated marketing communications perspective, emphasizing the planning, design, and implementation of advertising campaigns.

Prospective Proposal for Senior Project-

For my senior project I intend on producing and engineering an album of entirely original, and predominantly electronic music. These compositions, and the production thereof will tie in the majority of the material I will have studied at Skidmore. With the assistance of Ian Braunstein, a graduation senior well acquainted with music technology, I have already began working on this project. When completed, I would like to press the work onto a CD and presented to my professors; I feel this is the most significant and culturally relevant method of presentation for the type of music I am interested in.