Music Production Beginners Course
Syllabus

Duration : 4 months (16 weeks)
3 classes / week

This course will provide aspiring music producers with the knowledge and skill to put together high quality musical recordings. You'll learn a large set of tools & strategies that you will need to evolve your song into a balanced musical arrangement.

This Course is split into 4 Modules :

Music Theory
Sound Theory
Producing Music In Ableton
Mixing & Mastering

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1. Music Theory

(Week 1 & 2)

Learn fundamentals of music essential to craft musical ideas and develop them into complete songs according to your production style.

- **Fundamentals of Music** *(Week 1)*

    - Notes
    - Major & Minor Scales
    - Circle of Fifths
    - Triads
    - Diatonic Chords in Major & Minor Keys
    - Common Chord Progressions

- **Harmony & Chord Variations** *(Week 2)*

    - Sevenths in Major & Minor Keys
    - Ninths in Major & Minor Keys
    - Common Chord Progressions using Sevenths & Ninths
    - Harmonic & Melodic Minors
    - Suspended & Augmented Chords

- **Time Signature** *(Week 2)*

    - Beats, Bars & Phrases
    - Understanding Time Signatures
    - Types of Time Signatures
    - Effects on Song Arrangement

(Assignments & Class Projects on Module)

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2. Sound Theory

(Week 3 & 4)

Study the nature & behaviour of sound and its properties. Learn various effects and techniques used to manipulate audio.

- **Understanding Sound** *(Week 3)*

    - Frequency
    - Amplitude
    - Behaviour of Sound

- **Dynamics** *(Week 3)*

    - Peak & RMS
    - Dynamic Range
    - Dynamic Processors
    - Compression
    - Gate
    - Limiter

- **Acoustic Envelope** *(Week 3)*

    - Understanding ADSR
    - Envelope of Traditional Musical Instruments

- **Reverb & Delay** *(Week 4)*

    - Understanding Reverb
    - Pre-Delay & Size
    - Types of Reverbs
    - Understanding Delay
    - Types of Delays

- **Microphones, Monitors & Cables** *(Week 4)*

  - Condenser Mics
  - Dynamic Mics
  - Types of Monitors
  - Types of Cables

- **Acoustic Spaces & Studio Setup** *(Week 4)*

  - Effects of Spaces on Sound
  - Reflection of Sound
  - Sound Absorption
  - Sound Proofing
  - Setting Up your Studio Space

(Assignments & Class Projects on Module)

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3. Producing Music In Ableton

(Week 5 - 14)

Develop the art of music production and the necessary skills for producing high quality musical recordings according to professional standards.

- **Introduction to Ableton** *(Week 5)*

  - Interface & Shortcuts
  - Audio & MIDI Tracks
  - Software Instruments

- **Programming Drums** *(Week 5)*

  - Working in Drum Rack
  - Velocity
  - Quantisation
  - Groove
  - Drums in Popular Genres

- **Midi Arrangement & Audio Recording** *(Week 6 & 7)*

  - Understanding Piano Roll
  - Chords Arrangement
  - Bass Arrangement
  - Melody Arrangement
  - Audio Recording

- **Loop Making** *(Week 7 & 8)*

  - Construction of a Song Idea
  - Vertical Arrangment
  - Genre Based Construction

- **Production Techniques** *(Week 9)*

  - Sampling
  - Warping
  - Automation
  - MIDI Mapping
  - Layering

- **Audio & MIDI Effects** *(Week 10 & 11)*

  - EQs
  - Dynamic Processors
  - Reverb & Delay
  - Saturation
  - Modulation
  - Arpeggiators
  - Beat Repeat

- **Song Arrangement** *(Week 12, 13 & 14)*

  - Understanding Horizontal Arrangement
  - Creating Contrast
  - Musical & Instrumental Expansion
  - Instrument Specific Arrangement
  - Transition, Automation & Fillers
  - Frequency & Energy Balance
  - Arranging a Complete Song

(Assignments & Class Projects on Module)

4. Mixing & Mastering

(Week 15 & 16)

Learn tools and creative techniques you need to know to mix music in today's production environment. Gain complete knowledge of what is involved in creating the final master recording of your song & getting it ready for distribution.

- **Getting Tracks ready for Mix**

- **Volume Balance & Panning**

- **EQ**

- **Compression**

- **Buses & Aux Tracks**

- **Reverb & Delay**

- **Advanced Mixing Techniques**

- **Stereo Imaging**

- **Saturation**

- **Limiter**

(Assignments & Class Projects on Module)

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