

Digital Audio History Project: A Cross Curricular Activity

Presented by Michael Fein

michael@feinmusic.com

Haverford High School, Havertown, PA

Session Sponsored by Sound Tree

Cross-Curricular Project Goals

- History
 - Research
- Language Arts
 - Write an essay
 - Cite sources
- Music
 - Record a voiceover
 - Edit a recording
 - Import audio
 - Use fades and automation
 - Bounce the finished file and burn to CD

Research the Artist

- AllMusic.com
- VH1.com/music
- Artist's homepage
- Google Search

Write the Essay

- Provide students with a worksheet so they have a framework to develop their essay.
- Type the essay using word processing software.
- Cite the sources! - CitationMachine.net

Voiceover Gear

- Quality microphone: Shure SM58 - \$100, Shure KSM27 - \$300
- Interface - Mbox 2
- XLR Mic cable
- Pop Filter

Voiceover Software Setup and Editing

- Create a new PT Session
- Create a new mono audio track
- Setup
 - Use a music stand to hold the script
 - Place pop filter 3" from mic and performer 3" away from pop filter
- Check levels
 - Avoid "too soft"

- Avoid CLIPPING
 - Aim for good levels just below clipping
- Split the regions
- Trim each region to remove mistakes
- Move the regions so you have 3 main sections.
- Improve the sound with SIGNAL PROCESSING
 - Normalize
 - Compressor
 - Reverb

Music – Importing and Editing

- Importing: Insert a CD, Choose *File > Import > Audio to Track*
- Editing:
 - Trim each song down so it fits with a given voiceover section.
 - Use the smart tool to fade in and out of the section.
 - Add automation so the song gets softer during the voiceover (ducking).

Bounce to Disk

- This step creates a stereo mix of the file.
 - AIFF or WAV, Stereo Interleaved, 16 bit, 44100 hz
- This allows you to:
 - Add to iTunes library
 - Burn to CD
 - Email to a friend (convert to MP3 first)
 - Import into other software such as GarageBand

Extentions

- Create a PowerPoint file to accompany the essay. Include key points and pictures of the artist.
- Import the bounced audio file into GarageBand along with PowerPoint slide pictures to create a complete multi-media experience.

Resources

- Websites:
 - TI:ME (www.ti-me.org)
 - Sound Tree (www.soundtree.com)
 - Michael Fein (www.feinmusic.com)
- Publications:
 - *The Musician's Guide to Pro Tools* by John Keane
 - *Producing in the Home Studio with Pro Tools* by David Franz