

.Mentor Visit Assessment #2

Date: 2/9/2021

Subject: Second Mentor Visit With Cody

Assessment:

Throughout the duration of our second mentor visit, Cody and I began recording and engineering a cover of John Mayer's hit song "Gravity". I learned from Cody that the recording of a preexisting song is a great form of practice, because it eliminates the majority of the creative process and allows us to work on engineering and recording practices. Gravity specifically is a great one to practice because it is very simple; it is composed of an organ track, a simplistic bass track, rhythm guitar, drums and lead guitar. In the realm of music, this is very barebones.

Cody and I began with setting up our hardware and software, which can be quite time consuming. A lot can go wrong during this process, though it is a great way to learn about the ins and outs of the technology. As we began with the recording process, Cody and I listened to the song in its entirety. We did so with special attention to detail; while listening to it we analyzed the piece for changes in the drums, how the producer adds rhythm, how tracks lead up to the chorus, and most importantly the timing of the song. This is all very important information for the recording process, as well as to learn the most from the song. In listening with a very strong intention, you absorb the most from a song.

When we had fully analyzed the song and knew what to play, Cody and I decided that I should be the one to "engineer" (handle the recording aspects) the song while he played the tracks. As we recorded, I learned a lot about navigating the software with relative ease. A very important aspect of engineering is knowing the keyboard shortcuts to perform certain functions, because it allows the musicians to work quickly and efficiently. With speed, musicians can communicate ideas as they come out of their minds; it is on the engineer to make that possible. Some of the functions which I had to perform were cross-fading, which is the merging of two

consecutive tracks (of the same instrument) into a single one, as well as establishing the effects used on a certain instrument, specifically guitar pedals like reverb and delay which have effects on the way a track sounds. As the song progressed and we listened back to it, it was very interesting and even inspiring to feel a song “build”. Cody’s experience in the studio booth, as well as his experience as being a recording artist, was very useful throughout the session and helped us a great deal.

All in all, my session with Cody last week was incredibly informative. I learned a great deal about analyzing songs for their most important and effective elements, as well as what the workflow looks like within a studio session. Music can be very time consuming! Despite knowing the song, and it being very simple, it took a very long time for us to record and set up. As I write and record my own songs, I need to ensure that I set aside a good deal of time if I want to make something that I am proud of.