Original Work Assessment

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Assessment:

Music in itself has always been something that I view with deep fascination. Over hundreds of years people have developed a language and science that is dedicated to telling stories and eliciting emotions in a beautiful way. Music is a sphere in which individualism and change are embraced, and where breaking the rules is encouraged. Throughout the process of producing my first song, I learned an incredible amount of information in a very short period of time, and had a wonderful time.

I came up with the idea of producing a song of my own after viewing artists do the same all over the internet platform YouTube. Many musicians have posted videos of their creative process and working with software and instruments to create something beautiful, and I found it absolutely fascinating. For the first major project, I wanted to create a challenge and throw myself into this process without any experience. I was, in fact, successful. The entirety of the process was difficult, from analyzing songs to decipher what combinations create certain emotions, to mixing and mastering my final track. However, finding my way around the platform and dealing with technical difficulties and my own ignorance found to be the most challenging. The Digital Audio Workspace that I used, called Cubase, is very dense with effects and menus, so figuring out even the most basic of processes required extensive research and trial and error. It was weeks before I felt comfortable recording and editing tracks. With time, though, came gradual improvement, and I was eventually able to navigate the platform somewhat comfortably.

While the application of this newfound knowledge to music is obvious, it is more difficult to define how this process would contribute to somebody's real world abilities. With that said, though, the technological adversities faced throughout this process, while frustrating and

annoying, brought about increased ability to deal with lingering problems, mostly forming itself in a more patient mindset. As problems persisted, I found that getting angry about them did nothing other than making the problem worse, and made an attempt to be more patient. In fact, this helped problems to be solved quicker, as I was in a calmer, healthier headspace. Further, the analysis of songs that I did reflects the sentiment that one can learn a lot about their field or art by taking a glance at what the most successful people are doing and adapting their own style to it. While we must maintain originality, I believe an essential part of developing oneself as a professional is taking on aspects of those we deem successful.

Experiencing this brought me to the realization that good-sounding music is not easily created. From the libraries of hundreds of millions of songs on YouTube, Spotify and Apple Music, it seems as if anybody could do it without much effort at all.This is not the case. In the process of attempting to create my own song, I learned that a professional sound takes hours upon hours of writing, recording, layering, and especially mixing and mastering. For my final product of the year, I will most definitely need to begin my project much further in advance if I expect to create something that is truly impressive. I also know now of the absolute necessity of using one's resources to their fullest extent. For example, the internet was incredibly useful throughout the process of producing a song, as it provided helpful information regarding the Cubase platform, as well as a great deal of useful diagrams and charts for music theory and production advice. To create something that reaches my high standards for the final product, I will begin much earlier with the process of researching and ideating, which will leave more time for producing, mixing, and mastering the song.