

Structure, Form & Creativity (MP151 / MP153)

Course Description

This course takes from where the Music Production 101 leaves, to develop the skill of learning through critical listening, with particular attention to structure, arrangement and programming.

Course Outline

Week 1: Critical Listening, Patterns, Song Structure

Hours 1-3

The Unified Theory of Patterns

Hours 4-6

Patterns within a song: Song Structure

Week 2: Composing Vertically

Hours 7-9

Critical Listening, reverse engineering with your ears

Hours 10-12

Psychoacoustic effects of layering

Week 3: Timing Is Everything: Rhythm, Accents, Layering

Hours 13-14

Loose or tight, critical listening and comparing different audio examples

Hours 15-17

The secrets of a good groove, intentional and accidental grooves

Week 4: Advanced Quantizing

Hours 18-21

Building original grooves

Hours 22-24

Conforming to an existing groove

Week 5: Melody

Hours 25-27

Melodies in the Unified Theory of Patterns

Hours 28-30

Creating Melodies, Riffs & Hooks

Week 6: Bass

Hours 31-33

Bass: the beginning of Harmony

Hours 34-36

Good bass versus cluttering bass

Week 7: A Practical Approach To Music Theory

Hours 37-39

The Patterns known as Music Theory

Hours 40-42

Finding your own music theory

Week 8: The Creative Process / Creating Inspiration

Hours 43-45

Defining creativity

Hours 46-48

Feeding and exercising your creative muscles

Week 9: Add Depth And Maintain Interest

Hours 49-51

Using distraction to maintain attention

Hours 52-54

Things to do while composing and while mixing, practical examples

Week 10: Finding Boundaries: Creating In A Specific Style Or Musical Genre

Hours 55-57

Styles, trends, learning to conform

Hours 58-60

You need to have rules if you want to break them

Week 11: Dynamics In The Arrangement (Macro Dynamics)

Hours 61-63

Working at the arrangement level to stimulate and maintain interest

Hours 64-66

Dynamics and Macro Dynamics in the mix
Choosing sounds based on their envelope and spectral content

Week 12: Realistic Programming

Hours 67-69

Programming realistic drums

Hours 70-72

Guitars, Bass and other instruments

Week 13: Music Business 2: Selling Your Idea

Hours 73-75

Find out who you're selling to. Make yourself attractive.

Hours 76-78

Let others do the work for you, collaborations and social networking

Week 14: Music For Pictures, Emotional Responses In 15 Seconds

Hours 79-81

Telling a story with sounds

Hours 82-84

Corporate IDs and other extreme situations

Week 15-18: Final Project

Students will be given the opportunity to put into practice all they have learnt during the course in their final project. Part-time students will complete this work at home where possible, while full-time students will be able to use the studios facilities. Final assessment and the award of the Music Production Essentials Certificate are dependent on the successful completion of this project.

Details and schedule of the course

Course code:	MP151 (part-time) / MP153 (full-time)
Course name:	Music Production Level 2: structure, form and creativity.
Course schedule:	MP151: 1 day per week of 6 hours from 12-6pm for 14 weeks, with additional 4 weeks to complete final assessed project. Total 18 weeks. MP153: 1 day per week of lectures plus 2 guaranteed days of practical time per week for 14 weeks, with additional 4 weeks to complete final assessed project. Total 18 weeks.
Class size:	6 students or less
Platform:	Mac OSX
Course fees:	£2,520 plus £250 registration fee (MP101 and MP104) £4,140 plus £250 registration fee (MP103)

The content, times and order of these lectures are purely indicative and subject to change without notice. Our aim is to provide the best possible experience for each and every one of our students, adapting the course where necessary to stay updated and relevant to the different musical styles and career paths they choose.

See <http://londonschoolofsound.co.uk> for news, updates and additional info.

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