

## 1.1

### Skills and Knowledge

#### Operating a DAW

I am very confident in working on Bandlab (A web-based DAW). Editing and capturing live audio or MIDI is a particular strength of mine. My editing skills have developed significantly where I am now freelancing as an engineer editing podcasts. My editing skills include use of, and fully understanding, FX like compression, reverb, automation, panning, auto-tune and EQ, Sends, Trimming and aligning to the tempo of the project. These skills are still being developed and I would like to experiment with analogue effects to develop my understanding.

MIDI editing is also a strength for me because I lack the musical experience and skill of playing an instrument to a performance level I can however, with the use of MIDI editor and a USB keyboard, recreate anything in the studio using plugins (VSTs and software expansion pack). Here I can correct pitch, duration and my skill is controlling the velocity to get a human feel and not just rely on quantise to line up to the bar.

#### Operating a PA system

For me this is basic knowledge when working in a studio to which I can show my confidence in producing the sound just as much as being able to detect problems when errors occur, which when working with live sound is regular and you have to be alert, is not working to then be able to be fixed by myself.

The key to creating a successful live show (once everything is successfully routed and connected) is selecting the right microphones for the right source and this includes understanding the behaviours and construction of dynamic and condenser microphones along with the polar patterns and frequency response of each microphone. After that microphone placement is key and something I have thoroughly enjoyed experimenting with over the last two years and feel confident in doing after successfully running 3 school shows in addition to course units.

#### Live Sound engineer

Live sound engineers are the unsung heroes of all live performances. Their job is to ensure the audience experience is better than that of simply listening to a stream. The constant review of sound quality and EQ and ensuring everything is gated with no feedback is a challenge I relish. Along with this I understand the need for a thorough soundcheck and how the load-in and set times will contribute to the performance. I have experience with modern digital mixers and analogue mixers and find both exciting to work with.

#### Becoming a composer

Operating a DAW has given birth to my passion for composition. I am not a traditional musician and haven't had access to instrumental lessons but being able to build, reflect and experiment in a DAW has opened the door to becoming a composer. I can use MIDI instruments such as synthesisers, keyboards and samplers in conjunction with my DAW to create pieces of music in many different styles.

### Employability

Communication is essential for anyone. The ability to convey your ideas and articulate ideas effectively is a skill I pride myself in and also one that all employers will be looking for. I feel that an important part of communicating is also listening and actively listening to what is being said. Ensuring everyone is listened to will enable people to buy-in to your thoughts and build a positive environment for team work.

Throughout the live sound engineering coursework, I was able to communicate effectively with performers to ensure they were happy with the sound they were hearing along with

Being on time (Punctual) is really important. My dream is to be a music producer and that involves working with many different musicians. The key to my success here has been using an alarmed calendar system such as google calendar or even turning on alerts in the iPhone calendar. The other good thing about using a software based calendar is that you can share events with your clients and ensure they have accepted the invite so they are aware too.

I consider one of my main strengths to also be resilience. I see failure as the pathway to success and not the end goal. I have looked into developing a growth mindset to ensure that I keep developing and learning as a person but also for the benefit of my mental health. In the music industry there will be times where my work will be scrutinised and this is something that I have to expect. When I was doing live sound for a solo artists they said they were really unhappy with the amount of reverb in their fold back however I felt that I had done my job well. However I took this on board and at the next gig made sure to ask "is the FX level good for you guys in the foldback?".

### **Study Skills**

Grammar and spelling has always been a strength of mine and I feel this goes hand in hand with being able to articulate my thoughts. It would not look very professional of me to send emails with poor grammar or incorrect spelling to clients and it would also not look good to employers as they would not want this in their company. I pride myself on my English and always double check and proof read documents before I send any emails.

I am motivated to do be successful and achieve well in everything I put my mind to. Motivation is what drives me to put that extra 10% in when everything is not looking well and I feel that I cannot give any more to a task. I take a 10 min break and go back to it. I have often hit a creative "wall" when composing and even when editing podcasts. Especially composing though as I'll be searching for that perfect hook or even that perfect melody to get the piece where I want it.