

Project Title: *Vintage Modernity & Other Works***Project Description:**

For this project I will be completing two different pieces: *Memory Lane* and *Vintage Modernity*. The first of these pieces I began in Composition I in Fall 2020. It revolves around the use of both pre-recorded and newly recorded samples in order to represent my childhood. I was born in America, but I moved overseas at the age of 5, going to Moldova and then Bangladesh. I finally returned to America at age 11. This journey is reflected in the piece in a transition from using pre-recorded samples from my life in America (e.g. Shows from PBS, songs my father sang, etc.) to newly recorded samples upon my return (e.g. myself singing, playing instruments, etc.). I've completed the beginning and ending of the work, which can be heard within the portfolio material I've attached to this application. The middle of the work focuses on my time overseas and will be a mixture of pre-recorded and newly recorded samples. It will draw from traditions of ambient music as well as sample heavy music, and will be approximately 8 minutes long. After completing this section, I would like to master the entire project using professional mastering software and publish it on streaming services (Spotify, Apple Music, etc.), as well as on a newly created website for my portfolio.

The second piece (*Vintage Modernity*) will focus on vinyl and synthesizers for this project. I have a large collection of vinyl records, both at home and at UVA. These range from popular hits to more obscure records which I've dug up at garage sales and physical stores. Using a record player, I will rip samples from the records onto my computer and manipulate them to use in a series of pieces. These pieces will also include the use of emulated synthesizers created by Arturia. These are modeled after real world synthesizers and samplers which were popular and used prominently in the popular music of the 20th century. The combination of these two elements will allow me to create music that is both directly taken from the past and influenced by its trends and technological developments. I would like to make around 5 tracks (3-4 mins each), perhaps more if time allows. Once these pieces are complete, I would like to once again master them and publish the work on streaming services.

I will create an outcome report based on the process of music creation for each of these works. Additionally, I will include sections of the works in my final presentation, delving into what particular records or synthesizers I used, as well as influences on my work and my creative process for each project.

Objectives:

The overall objective of this project is to complete a high-quality largescale portfolio. This will be accomplished by achieving these goals:

- Complete the middle section of the project *Memory Lane*
- Create and complete a new project (*Vintage Modernity*) based on the use of vinyl sampling and vintage synthesizers
 - o Utilize newly purchased hardware to learn how to rip from vinyl effectively
 - o Utilize newly purchased plugins to integrate new means of both sample manipulation and sound generation into work
- Utilize newly purchased hardware in order to create higher quality recordings
- Utilize newly purchased hardware to create better mixes of my work

- Utilize newly purchased software to mix and master *Memory Lane* and *Vintage Modernity*
 - o Learn to use this software effectively from my faculty mentor
- Publish both projects on major streaming services
- Create a website to house these projects and other works from my portfolio

Limitations:

The shifting locations in which I will be recording will require me to ensure that my equipment is portable enough to easily transport. Additionally, not all recording will be done in a perfectly sound-proofed setting, as the spaces available for undergraduate students for this purpose are available for limited times. Equipment which may be better quality may simultaneously be not ideal, as a recording studio with sound insulation may be the only setting where all the factors are in place to use this equipment to its full potential. This influenced the pieces of equipment I selected for purchase using the allotted budget found below. Though some of the pieces of equipment and software listed within the budget are available to undergraduate students, they are available in a limited capacity. In order to complete a large scale project such as this one, I will need consistent access to this equipment over the course of the next year, whether at home or at university.

Statement of Need:

In order to complete my project, I will need studio monitors, a condenser microphone, an audio interface, mastering software, mixing headphones, an external hard drive, a vinyl-to-digital record player, and emulated synthesizer plugins. I need these things for the following reasons, respectively:

- Studio monitors would allow me to gain a more objective perspective on what my mixes sound like over different formats. Prior to this, I have been limited to mixing for headphones, which causes my mixes to sound worse when played on speakers with a greater dynamic and frequency range
- I normally rely on friends or libraries in order to borrow equipment to use, limiting my ability to record regularly. Owning my own recording equipment would solve this issue.
- Audio interfaces act as a hub to route equipment through to record and playback audio. This is necessary for me to utilize all this new equipment.
- Mastering can greatly impact the final sound of a piece, balancing out equalization, dynamics, and other important parts of digitally produced music. Software for this purpose is vital to creating a quality product.
- I need to replace my headphones, as its headband is cracking.
- I need to replace my external hard drive, as it has a malfunctioning input plug.
- I will use this to convert my records into a digital format to allow me to cut out and manipulate samples from them for *Vintage Modernity*
- I will use these as a core component and thematic element related to the past in *Vintage Modernity*.

Schedule for Completion:

Summer:

May 17 – Begin work on middle part of *Memory Lane*

June 21 – Complete mixing middle part of *Memory Lane*; Begin mastering/exploring Ozone

June 28 – Complete mastering *Memory Lane*, prepare for publishing

July 5 – Release *Memory Lane* on streaming platforms

July – Begin exploring synthesizers and various different components of each. Gain a familiarity with the new software purchased.

August – Begin collecting samples off of records, whether from collection or newly gathered from crate digging.

Fall:

August 24 - Classes begin; Begin work on tracks for *Vintage Modernity*

October 9 – Reading Days; Have written lyrics for all songs which require them; finalize mix on one track

November 24 – Thanksgiving Recess; Finalize mix on two tracks

December 17 – Classes End; Finalize mix on three tracks

Spring:

January 19 – Classes Begin; Finalize mix on four tracks; Release one select track over streaming services.

February 21 – Finalize mix on all tracks; Begin mastering *Vintage Modernity*

February 28 – Complete mastering *Vintage Modernity*, prepare for publishing

March 5 – Spring Recess; Release *Vintage Modernity* on streaming platforms

April 5 – Presentation of Outcome

Budget:

Item	Quantity	Price	Description
Izotope RX 8 Standard	1	\$199.50 (Academic Discount)	Professional audio editing tool used to clean up and edit noise out of audio files
Izotope Ozone Standard	1	\$124.50 (Academic Discount)	Professional tool for mastering audio
SSL SSL2+ 2-In/4-Out USB-C Audio Interface	1	\$299.99	Audio interface for recording and monitoring
Arturia V Collection 8	1	\$499.99 (Normally \$599.99)	Software instruments which replicate vintage synthesizers
Beyerdynamic DT 770 PRO 250 Ohm	1	\$159.00	Closed-back headphones for monitoring recording
WD 5TB My Passport Ultra for Mac	1	\$139.99	External hard drive for storing files
Lacdo Hard Drive Carrying Case for Western Digital WD My Passport Ultra	1	\$9.99	Hard shell case to protect external hard drive
KRK ROKIT 7 G4 Pair	1	\$459.00	Studio monitors for composing/mixing/mastering
Audio-Technica AT-LP60XUSB-B	1	\$266.00	Record player with ability to convert vinyl records into a digital format
Rode NT1-A Anniversary Vocal Cardioid Condenser Microphone Package	1	\$229.00 (Normally \$369.00)	Condenser microphone w/ accessories for vocals and acoustic instruments.
Distrokid Musician Plus Membership	1	\$33.47 (Normally \$34.99)	Service which allows publishing of music and albums to Spotify, Apple Music, etc.
Cable Matters 1/4 Inch TRS to XLR Cable Male to Male - 3 Feet	3	\$9.99	Connector cable for monitors, mics, etc.
Samson MK-10 Microphone Stand	1	\$17.54	Adjustable stand for recording
Total (Tax not included)	N/A	\$2387.95	