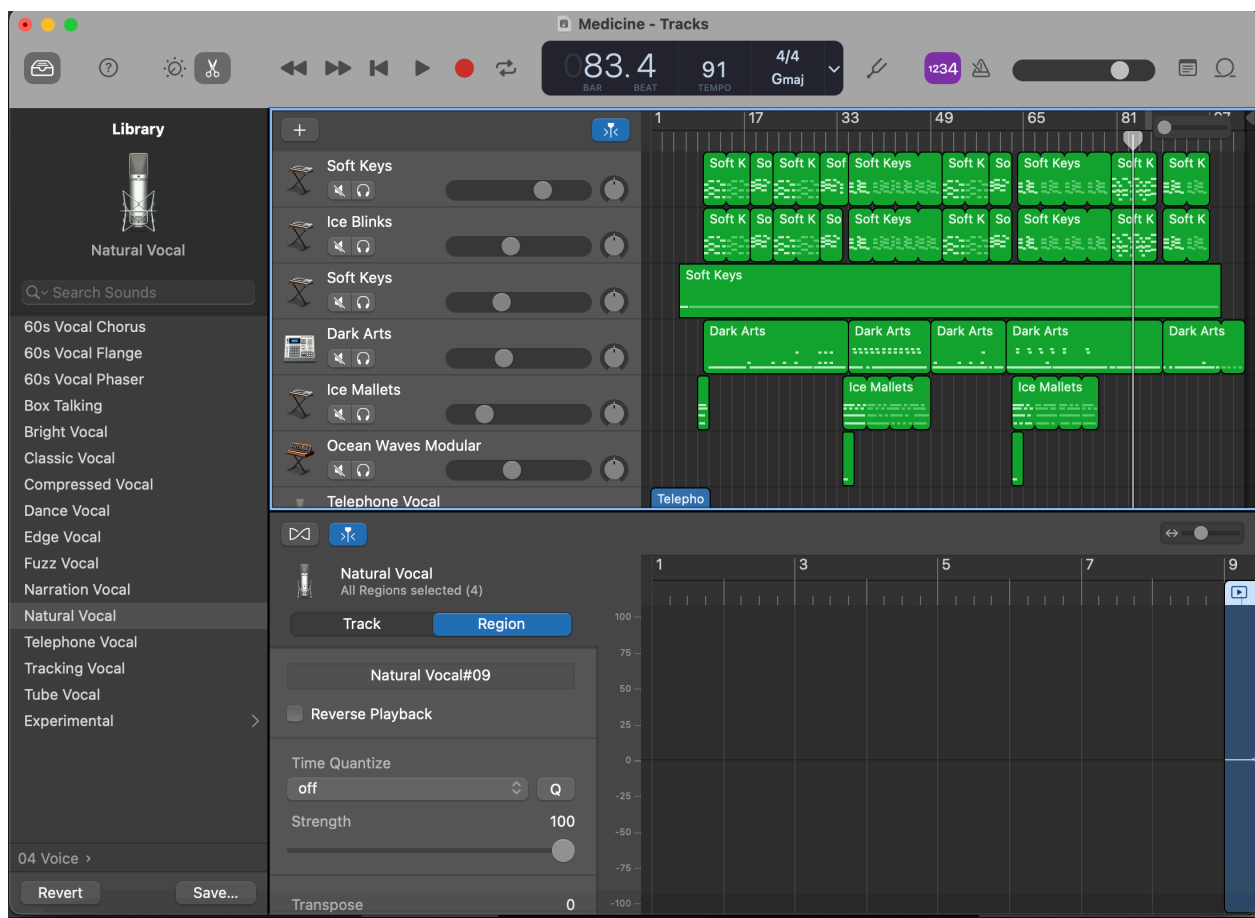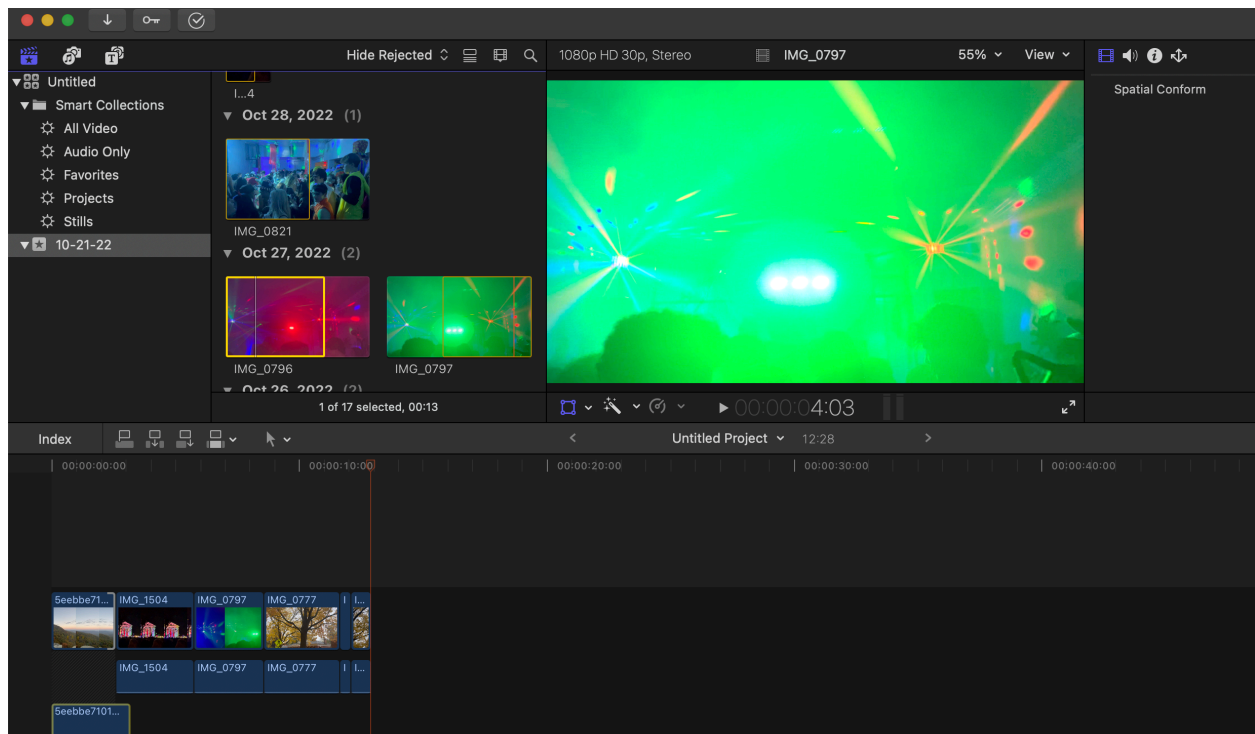Emma Reilly

Elegaic: Audio-Visual EP Outcome

With the purchases I made using this Minigrant, I successfully wrote and produced six songs for an EP entitled Elegaic: Old Haunt, Medicine, The Laundromat, Lola Delores, Lifeline, and High Road. To produce these tracks, I utilized the MIDI keyboard on GarageBand, Apple's built-in audio software editor.

I encountered a few setbacks in the production of these songs. One was my lack of experience in using a MIDI software in song production. The learning curve in exploring different sound profiles, effects, and beats was less steep than I had anticipated, and threw off my initial timeline for the creation of these songs. However, the curve had begun to sharpen upwards when the losses of November 13 changed my approach to this project entirely. The concept of a collection of everyday elegies felt hollow in the wake of a real and undeniable tragedy, one that has called for celebrations of life and acceptance of suffering. I removed or rewrote three of the songs that I had initially crafted for the EP and will soon be sending off demos of these produced tracks to an artist in Charlottesville to connect with the musical community of the city.

In creating the visual aspect of the EP, I was struck by the juxtaposing aspects of life here at UVA, and how that adds to feelings of disconnectedness or aloneness. This felt especially true after the events of November 13, as I struggled to rediscover a sense of joy on arts grounds, which is usually such a place of generative work and creation. Thus, in my visual accompaniment, I used videos taken throughout the semester juxtaposing the bright and loud with the quiet moments in this semester. This was vastly different than my original plan, which had involved a student dressing up in a ghost costume to show how those feelings makes one feel like a ghost wandering through a land of the living, but I decided to take the project in a different direction. I want my project to honor life in its new direction, rather than purely considering the darkness that I feel in my struggles with depression and anxiety.

Overall, despite the sudden changes in my project, I feel I have truly created something that I am proud of, and I look forward to improving my music with producers in Charlottesville and sharing them soon on Spotify.

Final Budget

Item	Price
AKAI Professional MPK Mini MK3 - 25 Key USB MIDI Keyboard Controller Amazon Link	$126.14
Apple FinalCut Pro Apple Website Link	$299.00
Maxone 320GB Ultra Slim Portable External Hard Drive HDD USB 3.0 Amazon Link	$25.74
Misc. Items - Holographic Sheet (for a ghost costume pre-Nov. 13) - Holographic glitter shadow	$49.12