Beatmaking 101 - Summer Intensive

Curriculum and Lesson Plan (Summer Program)

Program Overview:

This intensive summer program provides a dynamic introduction to beatmaking using Ableton Live. Students will rapidly develop core skills in drum programming, melody creation, sound design, and arrangement. Through focused workshops and hands-on projects, participants will create original musical tracks and gain a foundational understanding of digital music production.

Instructor: Chris Bishop (Dancer/DJ/Producer)

- **Instructor's Philosophy:** Unleash your creativity! Learn the essentials of beatmaking in a fun and supportive environment.

Desired Student Learning Outcomes:

- Gain proficiency in basic Ableton Live functionality for beatmaking.
- Develop skills in drum pattern creation, melody composition, and sound manipulation.
- Understand fundamental music theory concepts relevant to beatmaking.
- Complete a personal beatmaking project showcasing learned skills.

Program Format (Daily Sessions - Example: 2 Hours per Day, 2 Weeks):

Week 1: Foundations of Beatmaking

- **Day 1: Introduction & Drum Basics (60 min)**
    - Program overview, instructor introduction, and icebreaker.
    - Introduction to Ableton Live interface and basic functions.
    - Drum programming fundamentals: patterns, rhythms, and drum kit.
    - Hands-on practice: Creating basic drum loops.
- **Day 2: Melody & Harmony (60 min)**
    - Introduction to keyboard/piano basics and chord progressions.
    - Using synth sound pack to create melodic elements.
    - Hands-on practice: Composing simple melodies and chord progressions.
- **Day 3: Sound Design with Synths (60 min)** * Introduction to Synth basics. * Using Anomalie's sound pack. * Hands on practice: Creating synth sounds, and synth melodies.
- **Day 4: Bass & 808s (60 min)**
    - Understanding bass lines and 808 patterns.
    - Creating impactful bass lines and 808 rhythms.
    - Hands-on practice: Integrating bass and 808s into beats.
- **Day 5: Putting it Together (120 min)**
    - Review of core concepts and techniques.

- ○ Introduction to basic arrangement and song structure.
- ○ Project start: Students begin developing their personal beatmaking projects.

Week 2: Project Development & Refinement

- ● **Days 6-9: Project Work & Focused Workshops (120 min daily)**
  - ○ Dedicated project work time with instructor guidance.
  - ○ Focused workshops on specific techniques (e.g., mixing, effects, sampling).
  - ○ Individual feedback and support.
- ● **Day 10: Project Showcase & Wrap-Up (120 min)**
  - ○ Student project presentations and feedback session.
  - ○ Discussion of future learning opportunities and resources.
  - ○ Program wrap-up and celebration.

Materials:

- ● [10 Ableton Live software licenses](#)
- ● [10 Studio Headphones.](#)
- ● [10 Novation Mini MIDIs](#)
- ● [10 Laptops](#)
- ● [1 Projector](#)