

Research Assessment #2

Date: 9/10/2021

Subject: Mixing It Up: Sound Recording and Music Production in School Music Programs

Citation:

Clauhs, Matthew, et al. "Mixing It UP: Sound Recording and Music Production in School Music Programs." *Music Educators Journal*, vol. 106, no. 1, 2019, pp. 55–63.,
doi:10.1177/0027432119856085.

Assessment:

This peer-reviewed article, "Mixing It Up: Sound Recording and Music Production in School Music Programs" by Matthew Clauhs, focuses on providing different ideas for music production projects, as well as suggestions for digital audio workstations that can be incorporated into different musical settings for students. The author discusses various topics regarding music management in terms of copyright and applications of musical exercises into educational programs (Clauhs).

I concluded that this article is an outstanding resource to begin my research with due to the fact that it introduces projects that are able to be worked on by beginner music production students. These ideas can be incorporated into my original work and act as a guidestone for my final product on my ISM journey. The author also provides specific methods and strategies that can be taken in order to accomplish these projects from the perspective of an amateur musician. Because the article is targeted towards school music teachers, it helps me look at the wide view of what my musical journey should be looking like from an educational perspective which is credible due to its professional nature.

To begin with, Clauhs introduces his suggestions on project ideas with the Film Composing project (Clauhs). Because film composing requires the analysis of moods and emotions of different scenes, this could be an excellent project for emphasizing the artistic aspect of music production. I believe that if I choose to begin my journey with basic film composing, I would have a very tight grasp on the diverse types of atmosphere that music conveys which would also set a solid foundation for my career in the future once I dive deeper into more complex areas of production. During the process, I will be able to deliver my emotions and thoughts in a clearer manner to the audience since I will be trained to perceive different moods more openly through the film composition exercise. This also made me wonder, are there people out there that are able to incorporate their emotions and stories into their music without any special practice? If so, what makes their transition of emotion to music so smooth?

The author also discusses the 9-Square project which includes social media and popular culture on social networking platforms along with music creating apps (Clauhs). I was already aware of this project since it used to be a pretty big trend a few years ago. This is where I realized that music production is not simply just about “making music.” Production involves every process that one has to go through to develop the final product and requires knowledge in management and marketing areas as well. It is a practice of process rather than result. This leads on to Clauhs’s discussion about copyright infringement (Clauhs). Because creating music deals with originality and creativity, it is crucial to have good understanding in the music business areas as well. Professional music producers should be able to promote and distribute their own content through different businesses and industries without relying or excessively depending on another figure (Clauhs). This is what I love about this career field. It focuses on a wide variety of topics even though the central idea of music is present. The job eventually trains you not only for

you to become a musician, but a responsible individual with talents in many different areas of your interest. I especially agree with the author's claims regarding how music production makes you learn about entrepreneurship due to how they are interconnected with the management aspect of the industry (Clauhs).

The final project is the Full-Length Album and a home studio (Clauhs). This should essentially be the final goal of all aspiring music producers. Producing your own full-length album takes huge amounts of time, effort and also energy. This is why I think I should get more in-depth practice with basic technical skills and a solid foundation on DAWs and MIDI before I take an attempt. This could be my potential final product of my ISM journey depending on the path I choose to take. Home studios are an effective way to connect with other producers and mentors without wasting any unnecessary time and resources. Many producers choose to work remotely due to the nature of the job not having a set work time. Building your own studio could also be another one of my goals since it will require some planning.

After going over Caluhs's "Mixing It Up: Sound Recording and Music Production in School Music Programs" from the *Music Educators Journal*, I realized that there are many options to choose from to guide my way through my first upcoming ISM project. I will continue to search for inspiration and take constructive criticism to improve myself and my journey. I hope to continue to personalize this path through adding my own brand and colors, and by incorporating my own story to lead me through the plot.