Synths for women +/ non binary people +/ trans people Workshop
Course Outline

FACILITATORS (one per workshop)

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STRUCTURE

One 4 hour workshop session.

- 2 hour lecture/discussion presentation
- 2 hour practical session

AIM

This workshop will introduce you to electronic sound synthesis, the subtractive synthesis method, and the basic use and functions of synthesisers in the MESS collection. You will also participate in an open discussion of electronic sound/music, its artistry and technique as well as any general questions you may have about the field.

PREREQUISITES

None. This course is aimed at people with no or minimal prior knowledge/experience of sound synthesis and/or electronic music/sound production.

BYO EQUIPMENT

There is no requirement to bring your own equipment to this workshop. You are welcome to bring your own laptop & soundcard or portable sound recorder to this workshop to capture the sounds you create. MESS has all other equipment needed such as headphones, cables, etc.

OUTCOME

At the conclusion of this course people will have been introduced to the key concepts and basic methods needed to create sound on multiple kinds of vintage and modern synthesisers, and hands-on experience creating audio and modulation pathways using key components of synthesis such as Oscillators, Filters, VCAs, Sequencing, LFOs, Ring Modulators, Envelopes/ADSRs, patching, etc, in a supportive and fun environment.

WORKSHOP OUTLINE

Presentation Component

- An introduction to the MESS Studio.
- Introduction to terminology/language used in electronic sound.
- Basics of the human ear & sound perception.
- A practical demonstration of subtractive synthesis.
- Basic common elements of subtractive synthesis.
    - **Oscillator** (VC**O**)
    - **Filter** (VC**F**)
    - **Amplifier** (VC**A**)
- Introduction to **V**oltage **C**ontrol (ie. the **VC** in **VC**O, **VC**F, **VC**A)
- Basic common devices used to generate control voltages.
    - Envelope Generator (EG, ADSR) *including...*
        - The importance of envelopes in sound generation.
        - Introduction to gate/trigger generation & control.
    - Low Frequency Oscillator (LFO)
- General discussion and Q&A around electronic sound/music artistry & production.

Practical Component

Guided experimentation and practical instruction with instruments from the collection, overseen and assisted by the workshop facilitator.