DESN275 Week 7-8 Assignments Winter 2011

For these assignments, first understand what is meant by tempo, measure, key, major, minor, whole steps and half steps.

Assignment 1:
Using loops in Garage Band, ***create an 8-bar blues song***. We will do most of this in class.

Introduction
First, an 8-bar blues song in the key of C major would use the following chords on a guitar or keyboard:

C C F C G F C G

In recording or producing situations, it is common to substitute numbers (or "scale degrees") for the chords. We base the number on the notes in the key. For instance, the key of C-major has the following notes: C D E F G A B C

Since C is the first note in the key of C major, we give it the number 1.
F is the fourth note in the key of C. Give it a 4.
G is the fifth note in the key of C. Give it a 5.

Sometimes if we don't know what key a song will be played in, we just use the numbers. The numbers will work as well for *any key* you might choose. That's because these numbers tell the general ***form*** of the song regardless of the key it might be played in. This happens all the time in real blues bands because singers sometimes have favorite keys that fit their vocal range. Experienced musicians can easily play along with the numbers in any key.

8-bar blues form: 1 1 4 1 5 4 1 5

So how do we make our sequencer or loop editor change our loops from C to F to G and back?

Click on any loop. Then open the Track Editor. (Scissors icon near the bottom)

See the Pitch Slider in the Track Editor?
Pitch in music is adjust in "1/2 steps"

Here is the secret code!
In Key of C: the 4th note is up five ½ steps, the 5th is up seven ½ steps.

So if the form goes: 1 1 4 1 5 4 1 5
…the pitch steps are: 0 0 5 0 7 5 0 7

You need drums, a bass, a rhythm instrument like a guitar or keyboard, and probably a lead instrument so it isn't so boring. Or you could play along to create the lead. The bass, rhythm, and lead all have to change chords together. Of course the drums don't have to change pitch.

Not every loop will work for this. Many loops have chord changes built into them. For these first assignments we want to start with loops that stay on one chord.

Some Bluesy Loops That Stay in One Chord
Natural Drum Kit 03, Groovy Electric Bass 17, Pop Piano 01, 05, Classic Rock Piano 01, Emotional Piano 05 or 06,

Some Jazzy Loops That Stay in One Chord
Use Cool Upright Bass 13, Lounge Jazz Drums 02, Acoustic Picking 07, Contemplative Synth 01 or 02, Delicate Piano 03, Spacious Guitar 1 or 2, Strummed Acoustic 3, Picked Steel String 10, 12, 13, 15, 16 Dreamy Guitar pattern 02, and some jazzy saxophone or trumpet that fits the style.

Feel free to try other loops, of course, but watch out that they are not changing chords in the wrong places!

Assignment 2: On your own.
Pick one of the following to create with ***a different*** ensemble of instruments:
1) a 12-bar blues song with this form:
1 1 1 1 4 4 1 1 2 5 1 5

2) Or create a sound track for a fashion show with this form:
1 1 2 2 1 1 2 2 4 4 1 1 4 4 2 2 1 1
1 1 2 2 1 1 2 2 4 4 1 1
The loops should have the following characteristics: a walking tempo, uplifting, relaxing yet alive.

Bonus if you find minor key loops for the 2s. ***Bonus points if you make your own chords***. (For major chords use +4 half steps and +3 half steps; for minor chords use +3 half steps and +4 half steps. Note: we're only talking about creating three different chords here for the whole thing!)

Assignment 3: Read Chapter 12 Electronic Sound Production and <u>turn in</u> definitions for the following terms:
Synthesis, Sampling, Oscillator, Filter, Wavetable

White/pink Noise, Low Pass Filter, Resonance

ADSR Envelope, Modulation, Envelope, Vibrato,

Wah-wah, Tremelo, Host and Plug-in,

AU.DXi/VSTi/RTAS, Plug-in Wrappers, ReWire,

Latency, Polyphony