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New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 1 Music RAS 2023

91951 Shape music ideas to create
an original composition

EXEMPLAR

Achievement

TOTAL 03

My inspiration for my original composition was my favourite artist Dpr lan who is an R&B artist. Because I listen to a lot of R&B I decided to try to create an R&B song. I chose instruments that I was comfortable composing for which were: Piano, Drums and Bass. From listening to some songs from Dpr lan I realised some common patterns. They were: simplistic rhythm, strong vocals and consistent drumming with the occasional pause or fill. Because I wasn't comfortable adding lyrics I made my piano melody the voice, keeping it simplistic but interesting. I used arpeggios to add interest to my chords and chord progressions.

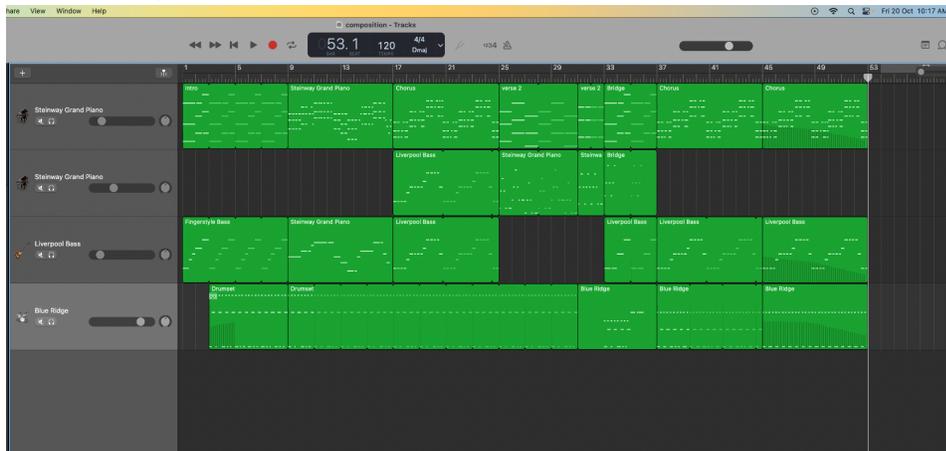
I chose the key signature of D major because I like the chords in the key. I am also comfortable with the signature as I have played songs in that key before. I chose 4/4 for the time signature because it is easy to compose music in this time signature. Also I have never composed or played the drums to any other timing so 4/4 was comfortable. I chose 120 bpm because I felt that the rhythm I created needed to be relatively fast paced. I changed the bpm around a bit to see what best fitted the rhythm I created and ended up deciding on 120 bpm.

This is a screenshot of the whole piece

Key signature: D major

Time signature: 4/4

Bpm: 120 bpm



Song structure

Intro: 8 bars

Verse 1: 8 bars

Chorus: 8 bars

Verse 2: 8 bars

Bridge: 4 bars

Chorus: 8 bars

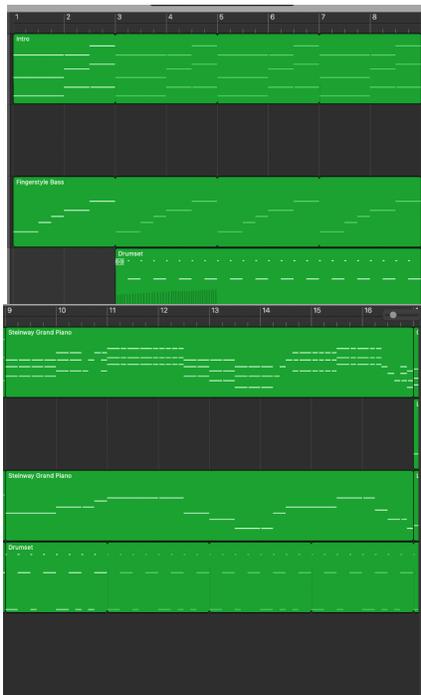
Chorus/outro: 8 bars

I used this drum beat throughout the majority of the song



Throughout this song I mainly used quavers and semiquavers. I chose those notes because they are fast paced and that is how I envisioned the song.

Intro:



Piano: 2 bars repeated 4 times. I used crotchets and quavers.
 Bass: I used the root note from the piano line to develop my bassline, I also incorporated an arpeggio to give interest to the bassline.

Drums: The drums entered on bar 3

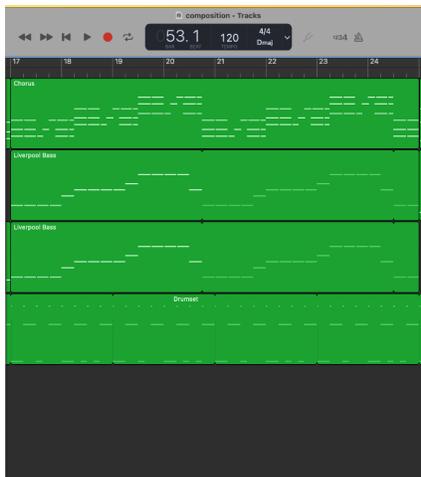
Verse 1:

Piano: I used a combination of quavers and semiquavers. I used common R&B chord progressions along with arpeggios to create interest in the melody.

Bassline: I based the bassline on the chords in the melody using the root note following the arpeggios.

Drums: I continued the same pattern.

Chorus:

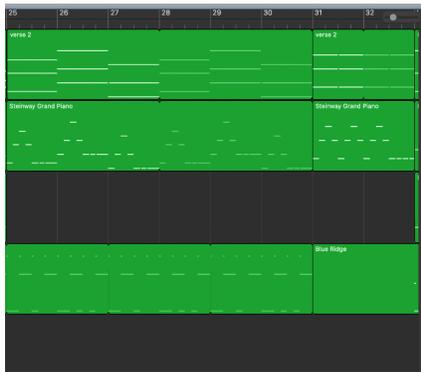


Piano: I used arpeggios to create interest. I used quavers and semiquavers.

Bassline: I did 2 basslines of the same melody, 1 on piano and 1 on bass guitar. I did 2 to thicken the chorus. I made the bassline fast paced to add a strong rhythm to the melody.

Drums: I continued the same pattern

Verse 2:

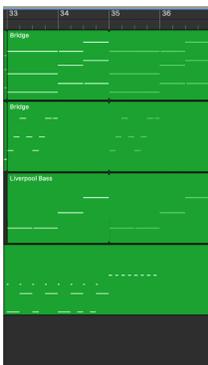


Piano: I did 2 piano lines, one with chords with semi breve timing for 6 bars then crotchets for 2 bars.

The second line was arpeggios of the note played in the other piano line

Drums: I continued the same drum beat for 6 bars then for the last 2 bars there is no drumming.

Bridge:

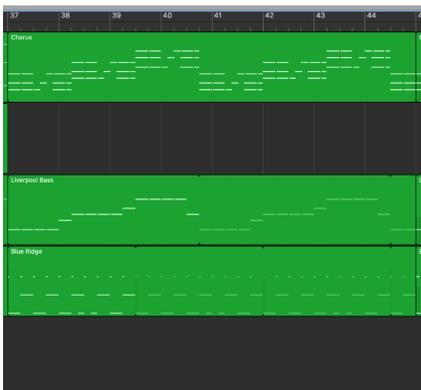


Piano: I developed The melody from the noted used in the intro. I used the same notes from the intro then made a second line on 1 bar of arpeggios I then repeated the 2 bars again to complete the bridge

Bassline: I took the root note of each chord in the melody to make the bassline.

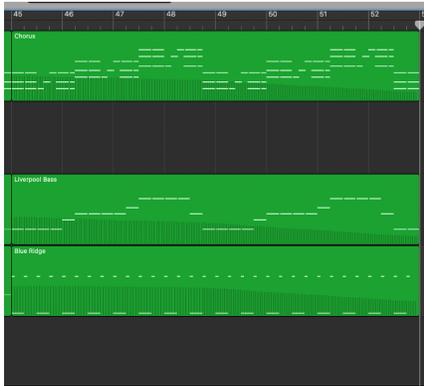
Drums: I used the same drum pattern for 2 bars. I then did a high hat fill for 1 bar. Then a bar of no drumming.

Chorus:



I did the chorus the same as the first chorus but without the piano bassline.

Chorus/outro:



I repeated the same as the previous chorus but changed the note volumes to decrease to fade out at the end completing the composition.

Achievement

Subject: Music

Standard: 91951

Total score: 3

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
One	A	<p>This composition fulfills the Achievement criteria by shaping musical ideas into a musical style, supported by appropriate visual representation and evidence of the compositional process.</p> <p>The digital piece composed using Garageband was for keyboard, bass and drums. The candidate indicated a desire for the music to sound like Dpr Ian and some elements of Dpr Ian's style can be heard in the piece. The music had a clear structure and mostly appropriate harmonic progressions. There were some attempts at melodic writing. While the structure was underpinned by a steady 4/4 drum loop, the chords and melody sometimes strayed into 5/4. This did not detract from the overall impact and in fact added some interest. Whether this was intentional is unclear.</p> <p>The visual representation was stylistically appropriate for a digital composition, with a detailed information about how the piece was created and produced. The screenshots, though very small, were just clear and detailed enough to enable another person to possibly produce the music. The candidate broke down the piece into sections and clearly explained what they did for each. While they used loops and some Garageband features, this evidence shows that they also composed their own lines of music.</p> <p>To improve this grade, the candidate could have been more creative with elements of the style they aimed to emulate. For example, they could have added atmospheric samples and a moody introduction, worked with a vocalist to add a vocal line, or worked on more variety of colour in the intro and bridge. The outro could have been more structured, rather than just a fadeout. The drum track could have been more closely aligned with the changes in metre, or vice versa. While the harmony mostly worked, some of the progressions had a rather random quality. More consistency between structure and harmony would have stabilised the overall shape of the composition.</p>