

Music 192B Final Project

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In this final project, there are seven tracks. They are

1. piano
2. leading vocal
3. backing vocal and the funny sound.
4. bass guitar
5. distortion guitar
6. tempo guitar
7. drum

The first three tracks are real recording sound. I sent out the Midi message to the piano which played the MIDI message automatically and I recorded the sound. I use the A-B pair to place my microphone whose model is "AT4049". Besides, I used microphone "AKG 414B" to record my voice. Originally, I played the guitar and recorded the sound. I spent a lot of time practicing the guitar. Finally, I could play the guitar in the recording without error. I felt satisfied. However, when I heard the recording, I found my rhythm was totally different from other tracks. My guitar's beat did not match the drum's beat. Now, I understand the untrained guitar player like me always plays faster and faster. When I played guitar and sang by myself, there was no problem. My voice could follow my guitar's speed even the speed became fast. When my guitar's speed should follow the correct tempo, it became difficult for me to play it right. Therefore, I abandoned my guitar's recording track. Actually, I had the same problem in my vocal track. My vocal's rhythm was a little different from the drum's rhythm. (Even I felt my rhythm was correct when I recorded it.) I spent much time on revising my vocal. It was a nightmare. (One of the reasons was I did this project at midnight.☺) I had to cut every sentence and put it in the right place. I also added some reverberation and a little echo effect on the backing vocal. I also eliminated the background noise and sound leakage from the headphone. (Using "Cool Edit", a sound editing program on Windows.). The last four tracks were converted from the MIDI file. I made the balance between each track, so every instrument could be heard during playing. For example, the original bass's and drum's volume were too small, and the tempo guitar's volume was too big.

This is my first time recording my voice and mixing it down with other instruments' tracks. I feel like I am a super star. (This is why I added the applause in the end.☺) From this project, I learn that the recording is not an easy job. You have to keep trying how to make a good sound. For example, the distance between the sound and the microphone, the model of the microphone, the singing and playing speed control. However, when I hear the final mixing result, I know that the whole efforts are worthy.