

Case Study

Electronic Composition Upskills Musicians in Scotland

Union: MU

Location: Glasgow

Attendees: 14

Funding: Learning Fund

The Musicians' Union (MU) is a trade union which represents over 30,000 musicians working in all sectors of the music business. The MU applied to the Learning Fund to deliver a bespoke training course to members on Electronic Composition and Beginners' Guide to Ableton Software, which was delivered in April 2017.

Fourteen MU members participated in the course. During the course, learners familiarised and upskilled themselves on using Ableton software technology as a tool to compose, arrange and record electronic music. The course also introduced the beatmatching, crossfading

and other effects used to mix tracks by DJs.

Through the use of industry standard music technology software, learners were able to build their skills and had the opportunity to explore new musical ideas and compositional approaches.

Stepan Zatkulak, a freelancer and member of the MU, said: "I saw that my friend was using this program and really liked it, so when I saw the newsletter from the MU advertising the course, it was a no brainer to sign up. It's a relaxed atmosphere and we're learning at a good pace. It's exciting!"

Dorian Cloudsley, a freelancer and member of the MU, said: "I studied music at the University of Strathclyde but no module like this existed on the curriculum, or I would have taken it. The course has de-mystified the software."

He continued: "I'm used to writing music, but not in this capacity. I was playing a lot of music influenced by electronic and beat



music, so I worked backwards from that. I'm sure the skills I'm learning will help my career when I finish the class."

Caroline Sewell, MU Regional Organiser for Scotland, said: "By enhancing the musicians' ability to record their musical compositions, learners could record their ideas for later development or collaboration with other musicians. Through this course, we hope to also inspire confidence as well as energise creativity. The MU hopes to build upon this success and utilise the Learning Fund again in the future to kickstart upskilling within the music industry in Scotland."

For more information on the Musicians' Union, visit www.musiciansunion.org.uk or follow on Twitter: @WeAreTheMU.



Musicians'
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