

# Composing Workshop

## WELCOME



# Technology for Composition



# OBJECTIVES

**By the end of today you will be able to:**

- Use a MIDI sequencer
- Use a MIDI controller keyboard
- Layer parts together to create a composition
- Blend sounds together through mixing

**You might be able to:**

- Explore sound creation using synthesisers

# SCHEDULE

## Morning session

Introduce and setup technology

Begin to compose.

Add and layer parts to composition.

Lunch Break (30mins)

## Afternoon session

Develop sounds within composition.

Listen to Compositions.

Guided tour and feedback

# Introduce Technology



Apple imac



Keyboard/mouse

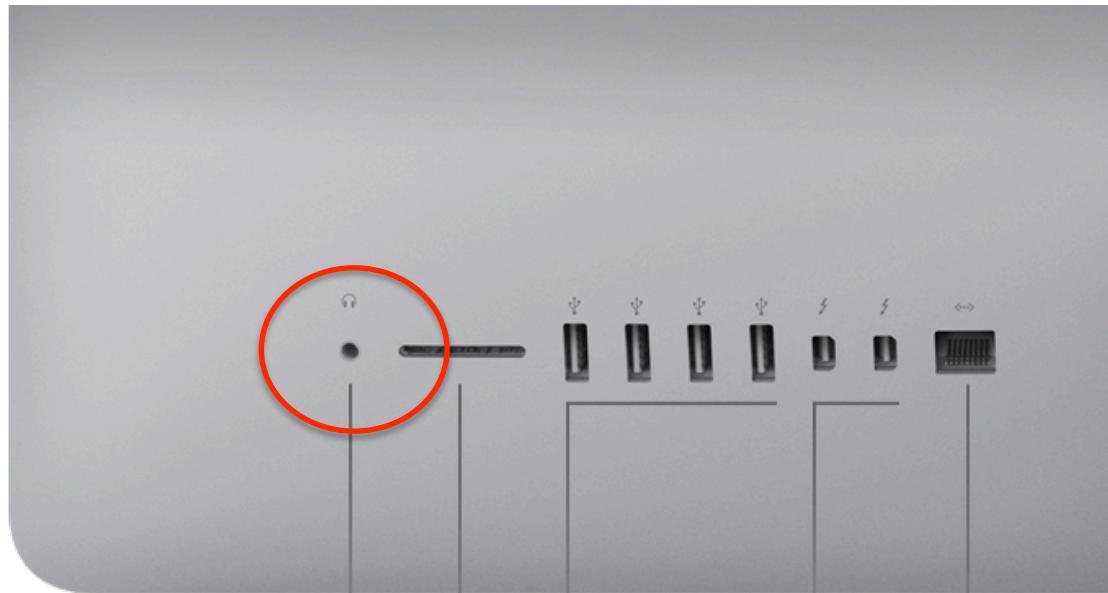


MIDI Controller  
Keyboard  
(no sounds)

Power button  
(hold in)

USB

# Headphone Socket



Rear of screen (right hand side)

Headphone

USB 3

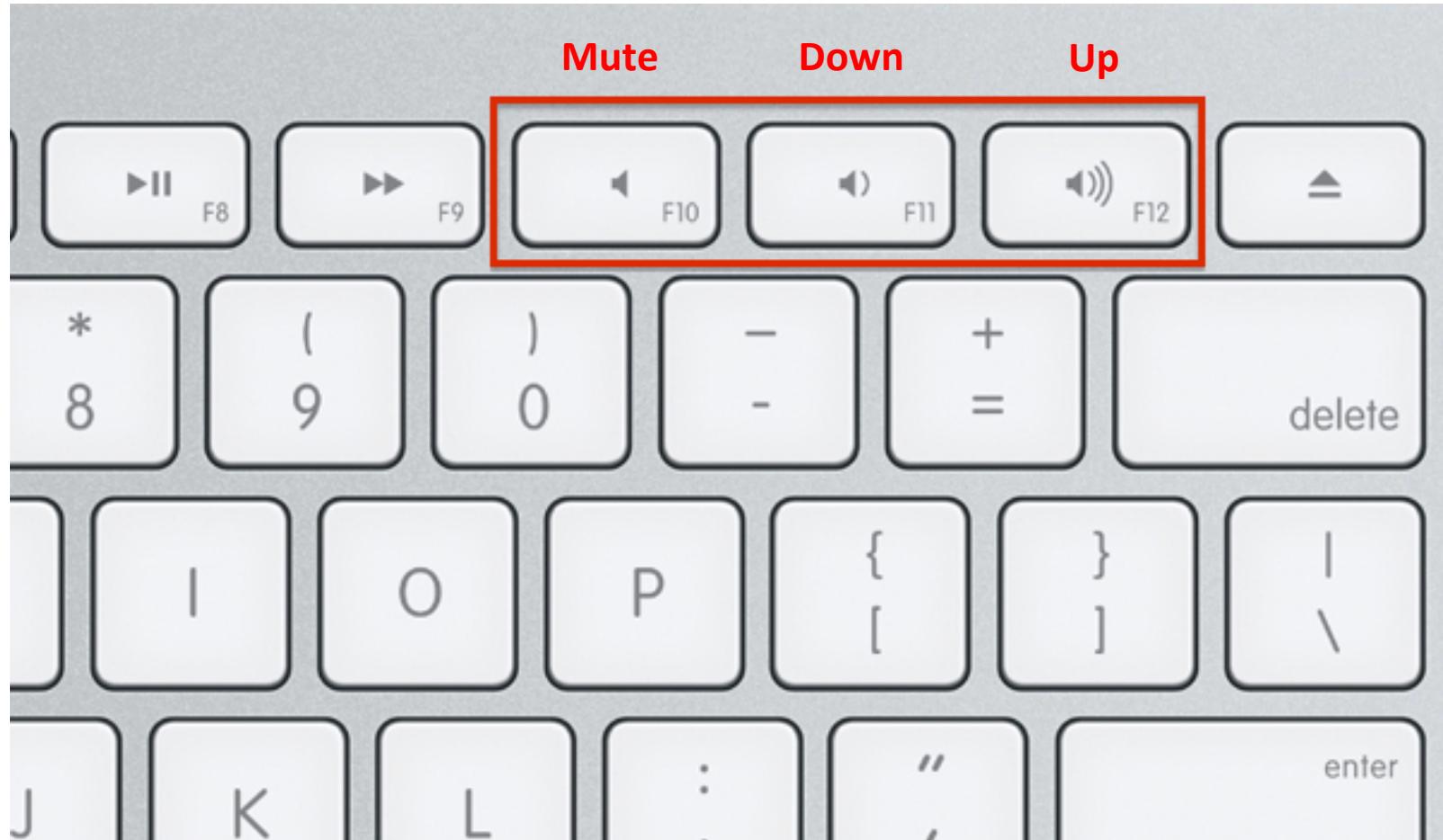
Thunderbolt 2

SDXC card slot

Gigabit Ethernet

# Sound Volume

Upper Keyboard; Close Up



# Logging On

Click your mouse, two boxes appear on screen

Name

Enter Password

## Usernames (temporary)

Z1027584 , Z1027585 , Z1027586 , Z1027587 , Z1027588 , Z1027589 , Z1027590 ,  
Z1027591 , Z1027592 , Z1027593 , Z1027594 , Z1027595

Password

dmdj3\$ed

# Accessing the Files

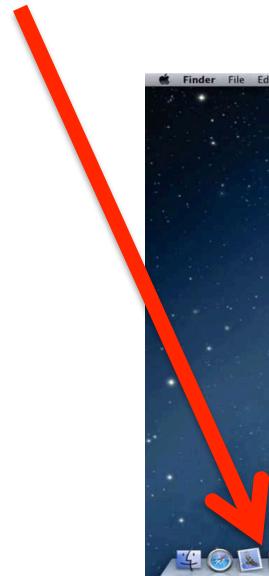
1. Open a Browser from the Dock at the bottom of your screen,



Chrome

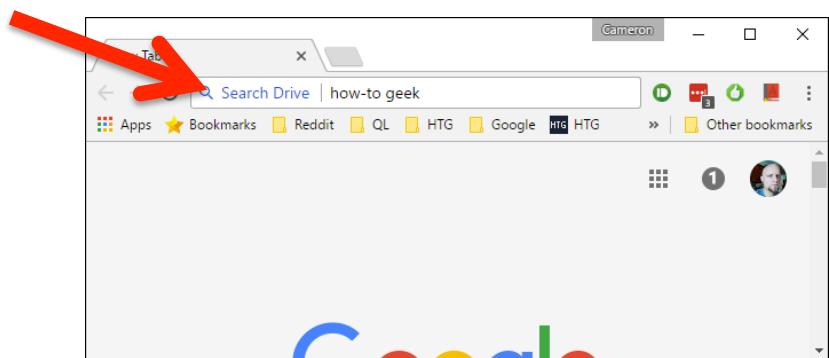


Safari



2. Type the following text in the Address Bar

<http://digmusic.github.io>





# Garageband

The following workshop uses Garageband to create a music composition.

## STEP 1

Download the file '**Garageband Tutorial: How To Make A Basic Track**' to your computer.

- You can now choose to follow this worksheet.....or follow the video tutorial.  
(use your headphones)

## STEP 2

Click the



icon from the Dock at the bottom of the screen.

- 00:15secs into the video tutorial... is really the beginning of the workshop.



# The Chord Progression

This section helps you get a chord sequence down for the basis of your composition.

00:15 – 4:50 Video reference

## 1. Create a Software Instrument Track

- select a sound from the Library window: Piano?

## 2. Explore a chord sequence (for 4 bars).

- explore the chords you like the sound of  
....you do not need to try and copy the chords used in the video. **Explore your own!**

(C Maj)      I   V   vi   IV  
                  C   G   Am   F

You might want to explore some common progressions\;

<https://www.musical-u.com/learn/exploring-common-chord-progressions/>

## PIANO CHORD PROGRESSIONS

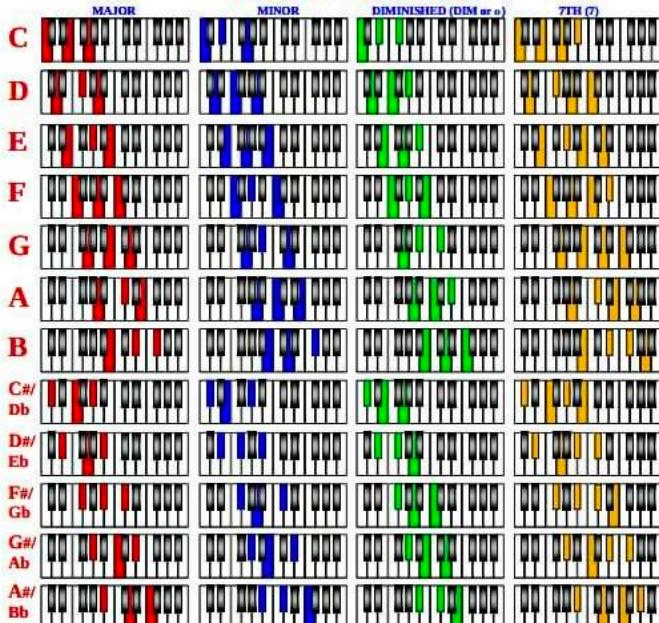
I VI IV V

IN COMMON MAJOR KEYS

KEY OF	Root Positions				Close Inversions			
	I	VI	IV	V	I	VI	IV	V
C	C E G C	A C E F Am	F A C G	G B D G	C E G C	C E A Am	C F A F	D G B G
G	G B D G	E G B Em	C E G C	D F A D	G B D G	G B E Em	G C E C	F A D D
D	D G A B D D	B m Bm	G B D G	A G E A	D F A D	B m Bm	D G B G	E A A

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## PIANO CHORDS CHART



## PIANO CHORD PROGRESSIONS

ii VI I

IN COMMON MAJOR KEYS

KEY OF	Root Positions			Close Inversions		
	ii	V	I	ii	V	I
C	D F A Dm	G B D G	C E G C	D F A Dm	G B D G	C E G C
G	A C E Am	D F A D	G B D G	A C E Am	D F A D	G B D G
D	E G B Em	A C E A	D F A D	E G B Em	A C E A	D F A D

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# The Bass Line

This section helps you get a Bass line down for the chord progression you have chosen.

5:25 – 7:62 Video reference

## 1. Create another Software Instrument Track

- select a sound from the Library window: Bass or Synth bass?

## 2. Explore a Bass line for the chords in your progression(for 4 bars).

- explore the **ROOT notes** for the chords
- consider the notes in a triad (3 note) chord...will these work?

....you do not need to try and copy the notes used in the video. **Explore your own!**



# The Lead Line

This section helps you get a Lead down for the chord progression you have chosen.

7:02 – 10:10 Video reference

## 1. Create another Software Instrument Track

- select a sound from the Library window: Synth Lead sound?

## 2. Explore a Lead line that seems to fit the chords in your progression

- explore the **LEAD notes** for the chords **and explore the scale**.

- consider the notes in the scale you are using....do these work?

....you do not need to try and copy the notes used in the video. Explore your own!



# The 'Beats'

Get the 'Beats' down for the composition so far.

10:27-11:30 Video reference

## 1. Create another Software Instrument Track

- select a sound from the Library window: Electronic Drum Kit sound?

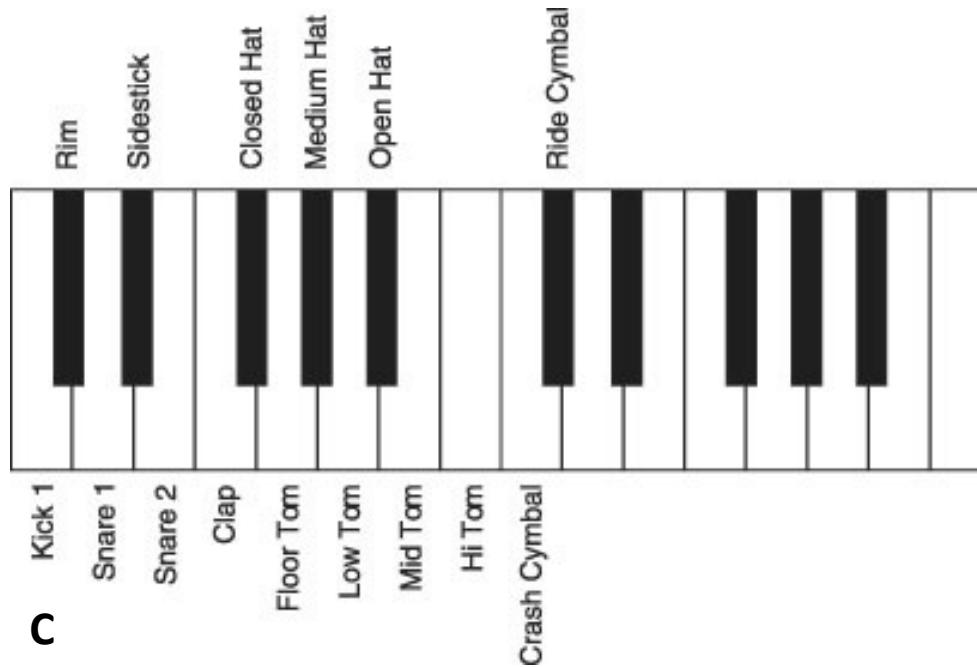
## 2. Explore a lead line that seems to fit the chords in your progression.

- explore the **LEAD notes** for the chords **and explore the scale**.
- consider the notes in the scale....do these work?

....you do not need to try and copy the notes used in the video. Explore your own!

# MIDI Drum Map

Each element of a MIDI drum kit is mapped to a different key on the keyboard as below:





# Layering the ‘Kick’

This section helps you layer the KICK with the ‘Beats’ track.

11:30-13:20 Video reference

## 1. Create another Software Instrument Track

- select a sound from the Library window: Electronic Drum Kit: Kick?

## 2. Explore layering up another Kick sound.

explore the **Kick sounds** that might fit with the existing Beats track.

- consider the sound of each kick sound.
- you might explore using EQ to blend the sounds together?



# Layering the ‘Snare’

This section helps you layer the SNARE with the ‘Beats’ track.

11:30-13:20 Video reference

## 1. Create another Software Instrument Track

- select a sound from the Library window: Electronic Drum Kit: Snare?

## 2. Explore layering up another Kick sound.

explore the **Snare sounds** that might fit with the existing Beats track.

- consider the sound of each kick sound.
- you might explore using **VOLUME** to blend the sounds together?



# Mixing the ‘Snare’

This section helps you blend the Snare sound.

13:20-16:15 Video reference

## 1. Explore EQ on the Snare track.

Explore EQ to shape **the Snare sounds** that might fit with the existing Beats track.

- consider the sound of each Snare sound.
- you might explore using EQ to blend the sounds together?
- Removing **High frequencies** with EQ to help blend



# Adding an ‘808 Clap’

**This section helps you blend a classic '808 Clap'**

## 16:15- Video reference

## 1. Create another Software Instrument Track

- select a sound from the Library window: Electronic Drums: 808?

## 2. Explore layering up another Kick sound.

explore the **Clap sounds** that might fit with the existing Beats track.

- consider the sound of each Snare Clap sound.
  - you might explore using EQ or Volume to blend the sounds together?

# Blending additional parts

This section helps you to continue your composition development.

17:20 onwards Video reference

## 1. Create additional audio and MIDI Tracks

- explore Audio Loop sounds that you feel fit your composition

## 2. Explore Audio Loops, EQ and Automation

Explore Audio Loops

- consider how Audio Loops may layer and blend your sounds together.
- you might explore how these can be blended together through EQ and Automation.



# Your Composition

Export your composition as an audio file.

17:20 onwards Video reference

## 1. Create additional audio and MIDI Tracks

- explore Audio Loop sounds that you feel fit your composition

## 2. Explore Audio Loops, EQ and Automation

Explore Audio Loops

- consider how Audio Loops may layer and blend your sounds together.
- you might explore how these can be blended together through EQ and Automation.

# SUMMARY

**Do you feel able to:**

- Use a MIDI sequencer
- Use a MIDI controller keyboard
- Layer parts together to create a composition
- Blend sounds together through mixing

**Do you feel able to:**

- Explore sound creation using synthesisers

We hope you have enjoyed the workshop

# THE END

