Report for the Final Assignment of SSMD

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Project MASHUP

MASHUP is a simple and practical interface that explores the idea of mixing two musics.

Introduction

The realm of music creation and exploration often embraces technological innovation to craft unique auditory experiences. In the pursuit of merging creative expression with technical ingenuity, this project embarked on an initial exploration of disco music through the versatile platform of Pure Data. However, the project's narrative took an intriguing turn, steering towards the fusion of two emotive musical masterpieces: "I'd Rather Go Blind" by Etta James and "Tennessee Whiskey" by Chris Stapleton. This report chronicles the transformation of an initial concept into a nuanced mashup project, showcasing the evolution from an exploration of disco rhythms to the creative amalgamation of diverse musical elements.

Synthesis Techniques Used

In all the patches and subpatches I've made I've only used the FM synthesis technique.

Context of the Work

My initial endeavour consisted of exploring disco music through Pure Data. The main objective was to delve into the essence of disco and its rhythmic elements, with the intention of creating an interactive experience in the software, creating an interface that was initially called DISCO MUSIC.

However, the direction of the project changed when I found inspiration in creating a mashup using the songs "I'd Rather Go Blind" by Etta James and "Tennessee Whiskey" by Chris Stapleton. The deep emotional resonance of these songs prompted a divergence from the original idea. The challenge of fusing two distinct but emotionally powerful tracks sparked my creativity and aligned perfectly with my vision of an innovative project.

Related Work and Artists

Mashups represent a vibrant aspect of contemporary music culture, embracing the fusion of disparate tracks to form a harmonious and unique composition. This art form has significantly impacted the music landscape, allowing artists and enthusiasts to explore novel sonic experiences.

Etta James and Chris Stapleton, the brilliant minds behind "I'd Rather Go Blind" and "Tennessee Whiskey," respectively, contributed profoundly influential pieces to music history. Their emotive storytelling and soulful renditions made these tracks ideal candidates for the mashup project.

And as we all know there are a bunch of mashup music work but in Pure Data i haven't seen anything similar.

Technical Architecture of the Work

In Pure Data, I created customised instruments to simulate a kick drum and a hit ring, for the hi-hat I used a very short sound file that repeats in a loop and I also created a sound with two notes, a sound with which you can only change the speed (BPMs).

In addition, I created an interface equipped with sliders that allow you to control the volume of the songs, the volume of the kick drum, the volume of the hit ring and the volume of the hi-hat. In addition, the interface also has 3 "toggle" objects, one of which allows you to trigger the patch to start making sounds, the other two are associated with components of both the kick drum and the hit ring, meaning that if you press these "toggle" objects, the kick drum and hit ring instruments will have the exact sound I want.

It's also important to note that the songs associated with the patch are not the originals, as I thought it would sound better if I sped them up to 1.50x, which I did using online software.

Technical Challenges

Throughout the project's evolution, several challenges emerged. The fusion of two emotionally charged songs posed complexities in maintaining the integrity of each while creating a cohesive blend. Furthermore, synchronizing the BPM slider with the intricacies of FM synthesis demanded meticulous fine-tuning to achieve the desired outcome.

Overcoming these challenges required a blend of creative problem-solving and technical precision. Despite the hurdles, the process was rewarding, leading to a harmonious and emotionally compelling mashup.

Conclusion

The transformative journey from an exploration of disco music to the creation of a compelling mashup project encapsulates the essence of innovation within the realm of music creation. The fusion of distinct songs, guided by technological prowess and creative intuition, culminated in a harmonious blend of emotive storytelling and technical precision. Through meticulous craftsmanship and an unwavering pursuit of sonic excellence, this project demonstrates the beauty of musical fusion, paving the way for future explorations at the intersection of creativity and technology.

MASHUP Interface Image