

“Nobody remembers what happened in the middle of your set. It's all about the start and the end, those are the kind of moments you need to make happen.— *deadmau5*”

CHAPTER RECAP

A deadmau5 concert isn't a "live" set, in the sense he's playing all the music then and there on the spot. But his set is a lot more technically involved than your average EDM concert (which usually consists of a DJ hitting play on a CDJ machine). Joel performs using his DAW, a mixing board, and an array of outboard synths that give him more options for manipulating sounds on the fly.

When you're putting your live rig together, think of a way to perform your music that both keeps the audience engaged and keeps you challenged and engaged. (If things go well, you'll be performing your live set a lot, you don't want to get bored). Also remember to make the beginning and end of your set as powerful as they can be. Yes, you should pay attention to the overall arc of your concert and how one song leads into the next, but the moments that really matter are the beginning and end. That's where your best tracks should be. Nail the beginning and end of your set, and the average audience member will forget the rest.

TAKE IT FURTHER

- ▶ Watch a deadmau5 concert dvd, like [Meowingtons Hax 2k11](#). What can you learn about what he's doing on stage and how he's ordering his set?
- ▶ Watch deadmau5 break down a live rig from a past tour [here](#).

SUBCHAPTERS

- ▶ Programming Shows
- ▶ Playing the DAW
- ▶ Crafting Your Set List
- ▶ Openings and Endings Matter Most

NOTES

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- ▶ Joel's been outspoken on Twitter and other platforms about EDM DJs not putting enough creativity into their live sets. Read what he thinks, in his own words [here](#).

ASSIGNMENT

- If you're already performing your music live, try rewriting your own setlist keeping Joel's advice in mind. Next time you perform, pay attention to how the crowd reacts to the beginning and end of the set, are you putting your best songs where they belong? If you're not actively performing, then it's time to start. Offer to DJ a friend's party, or ask your favorite bars if they ever have live DJ sets. Find a local college radio station and see if you can DJ your own show, or work up to it. Get yourself out in the world—people will start taking your music as seriously as you do.

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