

Logic Project: Sibelius arrangement Realization AND “Remix”

In this project you will

1) realize or “perform” your Sibelius arrangement in Logic:

- export your Sibelius arrangement as a standard MIDI (.mid) file
- open the MIDI file in Logic, where you will create a more realistic and expressive demo by
 - adjusting instrument assignments as desired
 - editing Software Instrument parameters dynamically
 - tweaking the performance and the mix
- bounce your adjusted performance to an .mp3 file

2) create a re-arrangement/“remix” version:

- pick and choose at will from the original musical ideas, while keeping the song clearly identifiable
- add elements, change the groove, mood, feel, etc. (I will give some examples)
- bounce your re-composition to an .mp3 file

3) write a short reflection on the whole process

Part 1: “Perform” your project in Logic

The goal here is to improve on the Sibelius audio rendition, making something more expressive and more realistic.

- Listen to your arrangement in Sibelius and export the Sibelius performance as an mp3. (This is just to compare to your eventual Logic version.) Save this file.
- In Sibelius, navigate File Tab → Export → MIDI
- In the right of this window, choose Sounds: A different playback device → General MIDI
- Choose MIDI File Type 1; you can leave the rest of the options as they are
- Click the “Export” button at the bottom of the right pane
- Launch Logic; create a new project with a Software Instrument track
- Choose File → Import → MIDI file... and locate the .mid file you just exported
- Logic will create the necessary Software Instrument tracks, with appropriate default instrument assignments

Adjust the performance in Logic: tempo, timing, and dynamics

- Use the Global Track to set a tempo and to make expressive tempo changes
- **Humanize** the timing. Since this performance was created from a notation file, the timing of each individual event is metronomic and mechanical. It will sound better if you nudge some notes away from their strict metronomic position. Also, the harmony parts may sound better if each individual note attack and release is not **exactly** in sync between all the voices. You can do this in the Piano Roll editor, either note by note, or by selecting multiple notes or a region and using the **humanize** function: (Piano Roll editor) Functions → MIDI Transform → Humanize. The dialog box that appears may be confusing but is well explained here: [youtube.com/watch?v=RDfe0EBQR3U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDfe0EBQR3U)
- Add dynamic nuance using velocity information in the Piano Roll editor, and/or track volume animation.
- Check out the Articulation options (if present) in the Piano Roll Editor!

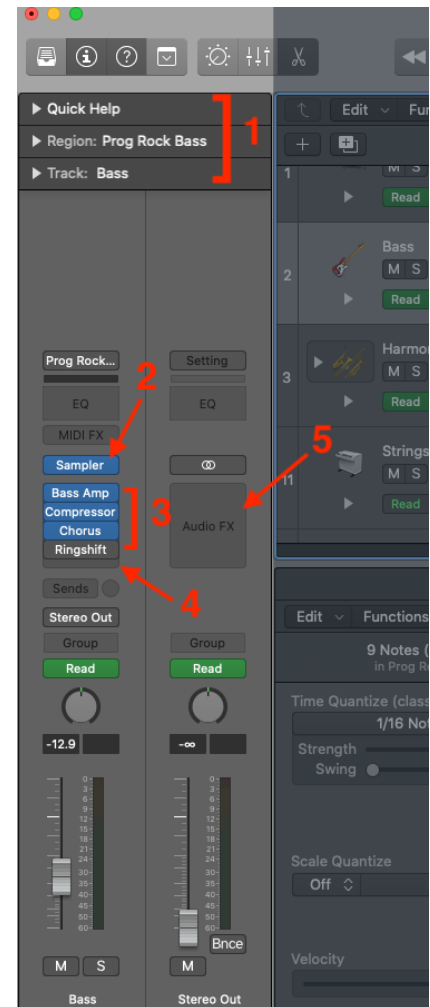
Edit the Software Instrument parameters

In Logic, you can alter settings on Software Instruments to adjust the sound. Parameters vary depending on the instrument. This takes you under the hood to get exactly the sounds you want.

- To edit the parameters, you need to locate the Software Instrument plug-in, Select the track and collapse other panes in the Track Inspector as needed to free up vertical space.
- The basic instrument plug-in will be the first (top) active plug-in in the stack. It will often be called “Sampler”, “ESX24”, “Alchemy”, “RetroSyn” or an intuitive instrument name like “Horns”. Click on this plug-in to open the instrument controls.
- Adjust the controls and see what happens!

Track Inspector, showing audio plug-ins

1. If some of these secondary panes are open, collapse them by clicking the little expansion triangle, so you have room to see all the track plug-ins.
2. This is the Software Instrument plug-in. It may be labeled “Sampler”, “ESX24”, “Alchemy”, “RetroSyn” or an intuitive instrument name like “E-Piano”.
3. These are additional plug-ins that have been inserted into the signal path below (after) the basic instrument audio. Many Software Instrument come “pre-loaded” with several post-instrument plug-ins. You can edit these as well.
4. This thin little sliver (below the inactive plug-in “Ringshift” in this particular example) is a blank plug-in slot. Click here to insert a new audio plug-in.
5. This is a blank plug-in slot in the Stereo Out part of the Track Inspector. An audio plug-in inserted here will be applied to **all tracks**.



Make your instrument changes dynamic

What distinguishes great-sounding MIDI-based projects from mediocre ones is continuous variation in the instrument sounds. MIDI is not stiff and inexpressive—the way people use it is. Constant variation happens naturally with all acoustic and many analog electronic instruments, but generally not with prefab digital sounds—until you tweak them! Logic makes this easy.

- With an instrument’s controls open, turn on track automation, set it to “Touch” or “Write”, and hit play.
- Any adjustments you make in the controls will be recorded onto the track, allowing you to shape the sounds in time. Every note can have a slightly different attack and decay, degree of vibrato or distortion, detuning, etc.

Experiment with the mix

- Adjust relative volumes to where you like
- Try subtly panning the instruments
- Add **EQ**
- Add **reverb**:
A typical “classical” recording does not have dramatically different reverb for different instruments, so it might make sense to insert your reverb on the overall mix, via the Stereo Out (visible in the right inspector channel strip—see item 5 in the illustration above) rather than the track input (the left inspector channel strip). But you might put a special reverb—either more or less reverb than the accompaniment tracks—on the melody track alone. (Some Software Instruments will already have reverb as part of their initial setup; you don’t have to add more reverb if you like what is there; you can also adjust settings in the existing reverb plugin.) For more control of grouped track effects, use **track busses** or **track stacks**.

Part 2: The “remix”

To be discussed in class. Examples are on the assignment page.

Part 3: Reflection

Write a short reflection on the project. Describe what you did with your arranging choices and with your Logic realization. What did you like about it? What was difficult for you? Then describe your reimagined “remix” version of the original piece. Describe any especial technical or creative effort you put into it. Does it give you any ideas or inspire other projects?

Submission

Put **all** the following into **a single folder** with your name and upload it to the **Project 6-Logic arrangement ‘remix’** folder on Teams:

1. the .mp3 file exported from Sibelius
2. the .mid file exported from Sibelius
3. the .logicx file of the improved realization of your arrangement
4. the .mp3 file of that realization, bounced from Logic
5. the .logicx file of your “remix”
6. the .mp3 file of that, bounced from Logic
7. your reflection (PDF or MS Word format only please)

Grading

.mp3 file from Sibelius submitted	4
.mid file submitted	4
.logicx file of the improved realization of your arrangement submitted	4
.mp3 bounce of the above submitted	4
convincing timing/tempo nuance in Logic using Global track	4
track-automated Software Instrument adjustments for expressive nuance	4
.logicx file of the “remix” submitted	4
interesting Logic arrangement/realization; creative effort (describe your efforts/process in your reflection)	6
reflection (Word or PDF)	6
total	40 pts