

MATH 109 / MUSIC 109M

CREATING A DIGITAL FILE OF YOUR COMPOSITION

This explains how to create an mp3 audio file of your composition. It assumes you have completed your composition in Finale, and that you have Kurzweil instruments, as well as any reverb or other effect, chosen and ready for playback.

1. Open your Finale file, select the proper Kurzweil instruments and effects, and be sure the song is playing properly.
1. Connect the Kurzweil's dual Mix outlets (right next to the headphones outlet) to the iMac's sound input. The sound input port on the backside of the iMac next to its headphones port. Cords for this can be found in the lab; they have dual 1/4 inch mono male jacks on one end, and a 1/8 inch stereo male jack on the other.
2. Unplug the headphones from the Kurzweil, or the extension cord leading to the Kurzweil, and plug them into the sound output port on the backside of the iMac. This will allow you to monitor the recording of your song.
3. Open the application Sound Studio. Its icon is on the iMac's desktop. An untitled document will open with Stop, Play, Pause, and Record buttons, and below that will appear a small panel called Input Levels. You may want to enlarge the upper window by dragging its handle on the lower right corner.
4. Select "Play-thru" in the Input Levels panel. You should now be able to hear notes that are played on the Kurzweil. The sound level will probably be too loud; you may need to set the Master Volume on the Kurzweil to the midpoint or lower. Then set the record level in Sound Studio so that there is no distortion even when notes are played with high key velocity.

NOTE: If you do not hear sound, check two things: (1) Make sure the computer's sound is turned up. This is adjusted using the sound button on the top of the computer's keyboard. (2) From the Apple Menu, select System preferences, then Sound, then Input. Make sure Line In is selected and Input Volume is turned up.

5. You are now ready to record. Be sure a portion of Finale's window is showing on the screen so you can access it easily. Click record, then go to Finale and play your song. Finale does not run (very well) in the background, so it should remain the active program while the song is playing. Note: You will not see the sound wave appearing in Sound Studio's window as the song records. When the song is finished playing, go back to Sound Studio and click Stop. Now the sound wave of your song should appear in Sound Studio.
6. Click Play to check that the song has recorded properly. You should now hear the recorded song playing in the headphones. You can go to any point in the recorded song by moving the red box at the top and clicking on the larger wave display with the mouse. Make sure the song was recorded at a proper level. The peaks of the sound wave should be at about -6 on the display. If not you should adjust the input levels and record again.
7. The file may need some minor editing. For example, you can remove dead space at the beginning and end of the file by dragging the mouse through the region to select it then hitting delete on the computer keyboard.
8. If the song recorded properly, you can save it. You will be asked to specify a location, preferably your USB storage device, and a file name, which should be your last name followed by (comp #), or (proj) for the final project (example: Wright(comp3) for the 3rd composition assignment or Wright(proj) for the project). You should also select the format at the bottom; use MP3 Audio.

To turn in your composition, score, and documentation, drag them into the Math 109 folder on the NSLC server. To access the folder, click on the NSLC Server icon on the desktop. Then click on the Math109 folder. Then place their assignments in the appropriate assignment folder i.e.: 1,2,3....

Remember that your composition assignments, as well as the final project, should be submitted electronically as mp3 files with accompanying score(s) and documentation. The project is due on Friday, April 24 (the last day of class). Late homework is not accepted and projects turned in late will receive half credit. *Early submissions are welcome.*