

Lesson 1 – MIDI Cover Song

30 points

Objective: Program a cover song using only MIDI tracks. Additional percussion tracks (other than drum set) may utilize loops.

Requirements: You must select a piece of music for which there is a written chord progression. Each project must contain each of the following tracks:

1. Harmony track – track responsible for the actual chord progression (i.e. guitar or piano)
2. Bass track – track that provides a bass line for the song (i.e. bass guitar, keyboard, etc.)
3. Rhythm track – track containing the drum beat for the song (i.e. drum set, percussion)

Resources: You can find free piano sheet music (sorted by difficulty level) at the following site: <http://www.gmajormusictheory.org>. It is recommended that you download the PDF file to your computer for ease of use. Some songs also feature an audio file that you can listen to as you are working on your project. If you wish, you may use printed sheet music that is NOT on the website.

There are many music books and compilations of sheet music in the music library. Some other websites you may want to consider include:

www.chordie.com

www.ultimateguitar.com

Helpful Hint: It is very helpful to create a harmonic sketch of your project prior to programming the music. Number the measures in your sketch, and match them to the measures in GarageBand.

Grading: Projects that will earn full credit will include ALL of the following:

- Correct pitches and rhythms
- Accurate quantizing
- Original MIDI percussion track that meets the requirements listed above

Outcomes: Students will continue to develop their music-reading and keyboarding skills. Students will also reinforce rhythmic concepts, as well as the steps involved in quantizing a piece of music.

Deadline: TBD.