

Occidental College Music

River Flot

Senior Recital in Music Production

April 17, 2021, 4:00 pm | Online

ChillyVybes

This track was inspired by the cold weather outside when I was back in my hometown in Illinois. I used different synths and layered them on top of each other to give a fuller sound. This track symbolizes how the weather made me feel in that moment and it's a representation of the cold wind I heard when I was creating this track.

138bpm

For his track, I created a happy melody that was inspired by my second semester of junior year coming to an end. I was happy because that semester was really tough and it finally ended which motivated me to create a track. In the track, I use a warm sounding synth that comes in and out of focus to add variation. I also use trap style drums and a low drone bass to add fullness. My mindset when making this track was hopeful.

2ndtolast

This track starts out with an arpeggiated synth backed by orchestral strings. I feel that the strings add a lot of depth to the track, which pairs well underneath the main synth melody. Simple drums come in to add bounce without becoming so overcomplicated that they take focus away from the melody and chords. I also layered multiple synths over the strings to help give the track a sense of fullness and depth. A technique I enjoy utilizing a lot in my music is layering, and this track is a great example of that.

Neck of the Woods

I created this song in collaboration with my peer DJ Adams. I attempted to create an instrumental that sounded spacey due to the atmospheric synth I chose, and I created trap-influenced drums to go along with the synth. A piano melody comes in that adds rhythmic variation, causing DJ to switch up his flow to keep the track sounding fresh and interesting. DJ raps about being from his "Neck of the Woods" and explains how he grew up. Going to Occidental college was a culture shock to both of us, so this song ultimately goes back to DJ's roots in Louisiana.

Faded

This track was created using an arpeggiated synth that I put a half speed effect over. I really enjoy the back and forth between the melody being normal speed and being half speed. Furthermore, there are subtle synth tones I created that back up the melody to make it fuller.

Florida2020

The first half of this track I created when I was in Florida. I was sitting out on my grandparents' porch and had a surge of creativity. I was inspired to create a fast paced rhythm that has strong influences from trap music. About halfway through the track, however, synth chords transition to a whole different beat and it gives a different percussive feeling. This is furthered by the fact that the melody starts out high pitched and a half speed effect goes into play to add variation. The backing synth chords provide a good base for the second half of the track.

Deep

This track's melody is a bell tone with airy synths backing it up. I think that this style of melody pairs well with trap influenced drums, so that's what I included for the percussion. I also used rolling hi hats to add bounce to the track. Finally, I used an 808 drum to go with the rest of the percussion, which helped to give the track depth and make it feel more powerful.

LookAtMe

In this track, I utilize the 808 bass drum to emphasize certain parts of the track that I want to stand out the most. I use delay effects on the backing synths which creates an interesting sound. I also opted to take the drums out completely in certain parts of the track to give a distinct change in sound which is effective in giving variation.

Balcony

I created this track on the balcony in my room at home. I wanted this track to have a realistic breath-like effect with the hi hats coming in and out (as if they were breathing in and out). The 808 drums were strategically placed to create a lot of bounce with the hi hats. The main melody gets removed in some parts to add variety to the track.

Wave

I created this track with my good friend Zion Alcindor. I first made a synth chord progression with a beginning melody. I then handed the laptop to Zion who created the percussion in the track, as well as a flute melody to go along with the beginning melody. I

think that the drum pattern pairs perfectly with the melody, and I believe that exemplifies a lot of what trap beats sound like in this day and age.