



GCE MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

6713: RECORDING, SEQUENCING AND STRUCTURED COMMENTARY

SUMMARY DEFINITION OF TASKS

Task: Sequencing

- Sequence 1: Stimulus chosen from the Western Classical Tradition.
Sequence 2: Stimulus chosen from Popular Music and Jazz

In both cases this must be an accurate copy of the chosen stimulus presented in standard notation. Piano reductions, tab scores and scores printed from the file of the sequence are not appropriate and should be treated as directed by the Principal Examiner

- Minimum of 16 bars in length
N.B. This is the absolute minimum as outlined in the specification and sequences of this length would be expected to offer more complexity in other areas. If in doubt refer to the level criteria in the sequencing selection grid
- A maximum of 4 minutes duration (regardless of bar length)
- A Minimum of 4 independent parts, which should include at least 2 different instruments

Key Features of the Outcome will include:

- Accuracy of data entry with regard to pitch & rhythm
- An accurate choice of timbres (as outlined on the score), musically balanced and placed appropriately in the stereo field
- The production of a sequence that shows overall concern for musical detail and style, achieved through the thoughtful and consistent application of data shaping, controller editing and/or real time data entry

Primary Aspects that will receive credit from the examiner are:

- Pitch & rhythm accuracy
- Accurate & appropriate choice of timbres
- The use of pan & volume controllers to create a musically effective balance and stereo field
- Use of controllers and (or) real time data entry to create musically effective phrasing, articulation, dynamic shaping and tempo control
- Evidence that the candidate has engaged with the task musically, demonstrated by a finished product that shows some sense of style and musicality

Task: Ambient Recording

- A live stereo recording using a stereo mic techniques to capture a balanced blend of direct signal & room ambience (NB Close mic technique is not appropriate for this task. In such cases please follow the guidance of the Principal examiner).
- The recording stimulus should come from the Western Classical tradition
- The initial recording may make use of more than 2 microphones where appropriate and may make use of additional reverb processing where necessary. However the work submitted should be the final stereo mix
- There should be a minimum of two instruments present in order to fully demonstrate capture of stereo field
- Track length should be between 2 - 4 minutes

Key Features of the Outcome

The final recording should demonstrate that through good microphone choice & positioning the candidate is able to accurately capture the full frequency & dynamic range of the performance with good clarity and depth of field. The ensemble should be musically balanced and positioned accurately in the stereo field. The final recording should have a good balance of direct signal & room ambience (whether natural or artificial), should be noise free and have clean top & tail edits.

Primary aspects that will receive credit from the examiner are:

- Good mic technique resulting in accurate capture, marked by clarity and good depth of field
- Good balance; a musically appropriate level of ambience (whether natural or artificial)
- Accurate capture of frequency & dynamic range (including credit for appropriate use of EQ, gain setting & compression where necessary)
- The ability to capture a noise free recording and to produce a carefully edited end result.

Task: Close Mic Recording

- A Close mic Multitrack recording with a minimum of 4 tracks
- The recording should use a balance of mic & DI signal sources. In practice candidates should have a minimum of 1 track captured using a mic
- The recording stimulus should come from Popular Music & Jazz
- Track length should be between 2 - 4 minutes

Key Features of the Outcome

The final recording should demonstrate that through good microphone choice & positioning the candidate is able to accurately capture the full frequency & dynamic range of the instruments with good clarity and signal to noise ratio. The subsequent mix should be musically balanced and make appropriate and/or creative use of the stereo field. Where necessary candidates should demonstrate their ability to make appropriate use of EQ, compression & gating (albeit at a basic level), together with the controlled and musical application of effects processing - particularly reverb. The final recording should be noise free and have clean top & tail edits.

Primary aspects that will receive credit from the examiner are:

- Good mic choice & technique resulting in accurate capture, demonstrated by clarity and good signal to noise ratio.
- A well balanced mix, resulting in a musically satisfying outcome, which demonstrates thoughtful use of the stereo field; controlled management of frequency & dynamic range (including credit for appropriate use of EQ, compression and gating where necessary) and controlled use of effects processing & reverb
- The ability to capture a noise free recording and to produce a carefully edited end result