

## **BEATMAKING THEORY**

### **6-Week Program**

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#### **Overview**

What are the building blocks of a beat? This course breaks down the elements of music that make listeners want to dance, bob their head, or sing along to an instrumental backing track. While exploring the basics of music production, recording, and beatmaking, students will also learn the concepts of sequencing drum beats, understanding different types of rhythm and subdivisions, creating chord progressions that add emotion to the music, and composing a catchy melody.

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#### **What will I learn on the Course?**

- How to program drum loops and melodic beat elements from scratch.
  - How to program an entire song's worth of music without sampling.
  - How to count, play and recognize subdivisions; whole notes through sixteenths, including eighth note triplets.
  - "How to play all of the triads inherent within a major scale, understand the numeric analysis of their root notes (for example, I-VI-V-I, etc), and demonstrate basic understanding of compositional tonality, tension, resolution, tonic.
  - How to creatively use unison and counterpoint to build beats with varied levels of syncopation, in both percussion/drum patterns and melodic ideas.
  - How to choose instrumentation, register/octave arrangement, and panning degrees that compliment each other.
  - How to understand and write using basic song structure (Verse / Chorus / Bridge, etc)
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#### **Instructor**

Instructor Drew Schultz is a prolific drummer/producer/writer who has performed with artists including the Temptations and Aretha Franklin, and worked in audio production with artists including Questlove, Maurice White of Earth Wind & Fire, CeeLo Green, and more. His knowledge of instrumental music combined with his studio experience will give students a unique insight to beatmaking and production through the lens of musicianship and composition.

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#### **Important Information**

**COST:** \$149

**DURATION:** 7pm - 9pm, every Tuesday for 6 weeks

**LOCATION:** DIME Detroit Campus, 1265 Griswold Street, 48226

## COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Description
1	<b>Counting and Subdivisions</b> This class will give you an overview of the Digital Audio Workstation, Garage Band. You will learn how to assign sounds to a midi keyboard, how to define time signatures and backbeats, and how to program time signatures and tempo. You will also learn how to sub-divide beats and how to create multiple audio tracks in Garage Band.
2	<b>Unison vs. Counterpoint</b> This class will introduce you to the terms <i>unison</i> and <i>counterpoint</i> , using rhythm, melody and scales. You will develop further knowledge of subdivisions to create themes and flavor within beats, and will also explore phrasing to create rhythmic hooks and sections. This class will also cover song structure and terminology.
3	<b>Making Beats with Major and Minor Scales</b> In this class, you will be taught basic concepts around the Major and Minor scales on the midi keyboard. You will create melodies and learn how to define octave registers, and will use these concepts to create a piece of your own music. You will explore the use of tension and resolution to create dynamic melodies that capture a listener's attention. Finally, you will learn how to bring your beats and composition together using song form.
4	<b>Chords and Chord Progressions</b> This class will further define melody and introduce harmony. You will learn music theory concepts including diatonic triads, chord progressions, tone and tonic. Using your knowledge from this lesson and week 3, you will create beats applying these melodic and harmonic concepts.
5	<b>Instrumentation and Register Choices</b> You will be taught about instrument registers and how to use frequency ranges that do not conflict. You will learn how to pan instruments to create a good sound, and basic mixing principles such as reverb, delay etc. This lesson will also introduce your 'Final Beat' project that will be presented in Week 6.
6	<b>"Final Beat" Project and Live Sound Capture</b> This lesson will bring together all of the concepts that you have learnt in the previous 5 weeks! You will create beats and demonstrate live audio capture using Garage Band. A private Facebook Group will be created so you can share your beats with each other. You are welcome to record with singers and rappers on top of your tracks!

