**GETTING STARTED WITH GARAGEBAND – Step by Step**

Preparation

1. Make sure you have the folder “GarageBand – Getting Started” on your desktop.

Procedure

1. Open the GarageBand file “Loop-dee-Loop Template” from the folder.
2. Click on the Loop Browser icon (looks like an eyeball) in the bottom toolbar.

In the Loop Browser, some of the descriptors indicate a style, and some indicate a particular instrument or family of instruments. It may be better to avoid the style descriptors and focus on the instrument descriptors. The best way to create unique sounds is to blend a variety of musical styles and genres to create something new.

1. Click on a single instrument, such as All Drums. The bottom portion of the Loop Browser will now display a list of hundreds of drum loops available.

Loops with green icons next to them are MIDI loops; loops with blue icons next to them are audio loops. We will focus now primarily on using audio. Later, we will focus on MIDI. But for the purpose of this project, you can use either blue audio loops or green MIDI loops.

1. Click on one of the loops, and it will begin playing. To audition another loop, press the down arrow on your keyboard or click the next loop with your mouse. As you find loops that you like, click the Fav column to place a check mark next to the loop.
2. After auditioning the drum loops, click the Reset button, then repeat this process with the other instrument categories.
3. After browsing other instruments, click Reset and then click Favorites. The Loop Browser will only display the loops that you marked as favorites. Now you are ready to compose.
4. Listen to the file by pressing the spacebar or by clicking the Play button in the bottom toolbar. The bass line is a loop from the GarageBand Loop Browser, and it will serve as the foundation of your loop-based composition.
5. Click the Cycle button (2 arrows on the toolbar). This puts GarageBand in Cycle mode (also known as Loop Playback Mode). In Cycle mode, GarageBand will repeat the cycle section infinitely to save you from constantly rewinding and playing the file.
6. Stretch the yellow cycle bar near the top of the screen so it cycles the entire A section from Bar 1 to Bar 9.
7. Press Play and allow GarageBand to cycle the A section.
8. With Favorites still selected in the Loop Browser, click All Drums.
9. Click on various drum loops to audition the drum loop with the bass loop. How do the loops sound together? Does the rhythm work? Continue clicking on the drum loops to find one that fits well with the bass loop.
10. When you have found a drum loop that sounds good with the bass loop, drag it into the main Arrange window. GarageBand will automatically create a new track.
11. If the drum loop is fewer than eight full measures, loop out the drum loop region so it lasts eight full measures and stops at Measure 9. (To loop out a track, put your cursor over the top right hand corner of the track. A circle arrow will appear. Click and drag to loop your track.)
12. Click All Drums to deselect it in the Loop Browser.
13. Select another instrument, such as Electric Piano, and audition various electric piano loops to hear whether they work with the bass and drum loop in your composition.
14. When you have found an electric piano loop, drag it into your composition.

Instead of using a single loop for eight full bars, try using one loop for four bars and then a similar loop for the next four bars. This adds variety throughout the phrase. For example, try using Deep Electric Piano 01 and then Deep Electric Piano 05.

1. Select all of the loops in your composition by clicking outside of any loop and dragging across all of your loops. This is called a rubber-band drag.
2. Copy and paste the first A section into the other sections marked A (Bars 9-17 and 25-43).

To copy and paste loops, press and hold the Option key and click and drag the loop. You can also use Edit > Copy and Edit > Paste or Command+C and Command+V, but Option-dragging is the most efficient way to copy and paste in GarageBand.

You are now going to compose a B section. This new section should be similar to but different from the A section. For example, if you used Vintage Funk Kit 02 for the drum loop in your A section, try using Vintage Funk Kit 03 for your B section. It usually will sound out of place if your B section loops are extremely different from your A section loops. It would also be common to keep the same instrumentation for the B section as you have for the A section. This means that if you have acoustic bass, electric piano, and vintage funk drums for your A section, use those same instruments for your B section.

(Click the double arrow in the upper-left corner of any region to change the selected loop to a different loop from the same category and style. For example, if you click on Upright Funk Bass 17 in the Arrange window, a pop-up window will appear that allows you to change the selected region to a different Upright Funk Bass loop.)

1. Drag the yellow cycle bar so it stretches from Bar 17 to Bar 25.
2. Audition bass loops from the Loop Browser. When you have found one that you think works in the song as a contrast to the first bass loop, drag it into the gray area in the Arrange window, and GarageBand will create a new track. The bass loop for the B section should last from Bars 17 to 25.
3. Repeat the previous step to add a contrasting drum and electric piano loop.

Transposing regions or phrases can add a lot of interest to your composition. By transposing pitched loops, you can actually change the key center of the selected area of your composition. It is very common to transpose the key of the B section. Common transpositions would be +5 semitones (Perfect 4th interval up) or -5 (Perfect 4th interval down).

1. Select the pitched loops in your B section. Do not select any drum or percussion loops.

(You can select noncontiguous regions by holding the Command key while you click on regions.)

1. Open the Track Editor by clicking on the Scissors icon on the left of the bottom toolbar.
2. Drag the Pitch slider in the Track Edit window to transpose the pitched loops. Try various settings until you find one that works well with your song. If you change the pitch too much, your loops may sound odd, so try to keep the pitch transposition to somewhere between -5 and +5 and certainly no more than -12 or +12.
3. Export the finished project by selecting Share > Export Song to Disk. Make sure you have it saved as an mp3 file.
4. Save the audio file to your personal folder and also submit the file to Mr. Boone through boonemedia.com.

Extra Credit: Enhance your song by adding percussion loops to the A and B sections. The percussion family includes instruments such as shaker, tambourine, conga, and cowbell. You can also enhance your song by adding additional pitched loops. Consider adding guitar, organ, or strings. As you add additional loops, be careful of the texture of your composition. If you have too many loops playing simultaneously, your song can start to sound too mushy, and it will be difficult to differentiate the various loops and instruments. It may be best to use one drum loop, 2-3 percussion loops, and 3-5 pitched loops,