

BEATS BY GIRLS LESSON 1

LIVE CLASS DEMO

WARM UP GET TO KNOW YOU

Everyone introduce themselves and talk about

- 1 – What type of music you like or favorite song
- 2 – Name and age
- 3 – What type of hands on experience do you have with music? Play an instrument? GarageBand or iPad producer? Youtube DJ? Music Lover?
- 4 – What's the coolest thing about you?

To get started ask them....

What is a Beat? – There's no right answer

What does a Music Producer do? – There are many and varied answers to this.

Is it the person who records all the sounds or makes the beat?

Is it the person who makes all the final decisions?

Is it the person who writes the song?

Can you name any Music Producers? Pharell Williams, Quincy Jones, Timbaland (a few examples they MAY know)

One current and mainstream example of this a lot of younger people will know would be Pharell. He is a multifaceted creator who acts as writer, producer and artist among other things. Having a conversation about him is a good springboard.

Take a look at Stoni who is a female producer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvAhViaD9A0>

Bottom line it's important to emphasize that the word producer stems from 'produce' which means to "cause (a particular result or situation) to happen or come into existence"

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH THE HARDWARE/SOFTWARE

Introduce Push and underline its value (treat it well!)

Introduce Live (or Ableton Live) as the software we're going to use to record our beats

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5obV0TAADhE&list=PLoh4MB-kbBmL0FskjwArNDeLzGILBIFg0>

Jump right in by: **Make a collaborative beat together on Push – METRONOME ON ALL THE TIME**

- Start with **drums** introduce the drum functionality
 - o On your computer screen go to browser and scroll through drum options
 - o Double click to insert onto a MIDI track
 - o From Push, turn on metronome
 - o Demonstrate drum functionality

- Show them how each yellow square correlates to a specific sound on a drum rack
 - Show them how to set loop length
 - Step sequencer (below)
- Demonstrate the record/punch functionality
 - Always push the QUANTIZE button after each clip is recorded
 - Demonstrate the step sequencer by asking them to remove or add a MIDI event by pressing on the pads in the sequence.
 - Let everyone go one at a time, picking one drum pad to program
 - Begin to layer – you should have a drum pattern with as many sounds as there are participants.
 - Move on to the Polyphony
 - On the computer screen, navigate to the browser and audition through the sounds we have (a kid friendly favorite is vocosyn in the ‘voice’ category)
 - Click on MIDI 2 then Double click on a sound in the browser to insert onto the track
 - Demonstrate polyphony (do/re/mi/fa/so/la/ti/do) and how it’s laid out on Push
 - Again, demonstrate the record/punch functionality and add first layer
 - Demonstrate how to insert a new MIDI track either from Push or the computer. Both might be a good idea depending on the group. Create>Insert MIDI track (software) Shift>Add Track (hardware)
 - Let each participant create a new MIDI track, choose their own sound, compose a part, record a part, quantize.

The idea is to dive right in and start having fun making electronic music within the first 20 minutes of class. We’ll only be working horizontally across the first scene and will expand from there as we continue through the curriculum.

RECAP OF WHAT WE DID

Today we used **MIDI** – which is a virtual version on an instrument, which we can then ‘play’ or ‘program’ by using a controller of some sort. When we push a button on Push it tells the computer a lot of information like which notes we’re playing and how hard or soft we played them.

After you’ve written/programed your parts in, you could select a different sound and it would be playing the same melodies and patterns, but with a new sound you chose –
DEMONSTRATE THIS

INDEPENDENT WORK

For the rest of class time the objective is to let each student fire up their computer and let them have their first independent experience with Live. Upon opening show them how to ‘**Save As**’ by going to File->Save, naming their session. appropriately and saving the desired portion of the HD. Make sure everyone’s Metronome is ON and send them off to the races.

- Listening to the different sounds in Live's library
- Programming some loops
- Inserting new MIDI tracks
- Make mistakes and happy accidents

This will be the first time the instructor and participant will be troubleshooting together. Encourage them to keep calm and raise their hands if they need assistance

LAST 10 MINS OF CLASS

- Ask everyone to stop audio, turn his or her metronomes off and down their headphones. One at a time, monitor each students results in the main PA – applause!!
- Make sure everyone presses Command-S to save their session one last time before shutting down Ableton, the computer and putting everything back the way it was when they sat down at the station.

YOUTUBE focus on TOKIMONSTA

[Beats By Girlz Youtube playlist](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VhR1RZh9a50>