Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award

Set Task: Responding to a Music Brief

Commentary on the creative process activity 3

Learner Name: Nellie Tagg	**Candidate Number:** 0708
Centre name: Sheffield Springs Academy	**Centre Number:** 36512

Activity 3: Individual commentary on the creative process
You must write a commentary highlighting the strengths and areas of improvement for your final music product.

You will be assessed on your explanation of:

• how and why you developed your response through the creative process

• how and why you used musical elements, genres, styles and performing or producing techniques to reinterpret your chosen piece

• strengths and areas for improvement of the final product.

You must submit a commentary, must include:

• a minimum of 300 words of text, in no bigger that size 10 font.

• relevant screenshots and/or images of work in progress that you captured during Activity 2.

How I develop my response

I have started with the song THATS HOW YOU START OVER by Diana Ross. I started off by adding all the chords I used a felt piano. I wanted the chords to last until the end of the song to give me the tune to know when I am singing and not getting the timing wrong and messing my que, by achieving this I had to listen to the song on repeat to be 100% sure that I was singing at the right time and not singing too far ahead or too far behind. Then I had to make sure that all the chords were in the right place so that the song didn't sound of beat or out of time with the original song. I also added a drumbeat to make the song sound less like a disco like the original song and turned it into a more ambient sound. Also added air beats added to this, giving the song a calmer and more relaxed sound than an upbeat disco song. When adding the air beats, I spread them out to fit in where I had placed my drumbeats because these were also spread out throughout the backing track to give it a more ambient sound. This would link to new beginnings to show how I could turn an old disco song into a new version with a different sound and new effects. After adding all these effects, I decided to give the backing track a bass line. I used an electric bass staccato in the form of a piano and used the same chords to tie it all together and to make sure it sounds right and not at of time. The bass line played all throughout the track and at the end I added an outro with sone air sounds but the last to be heard was the bass line to finish off the song. I built my track by adding 32 bars of music with the chords from the original song, so it had the sound playing all throughout the backing track. Then I started to add drumbeats, airy sounds and a bass line to add more texture to the song and make it sound more ambient. I added an intro that was playing for a long time and an outro that helped the song end.

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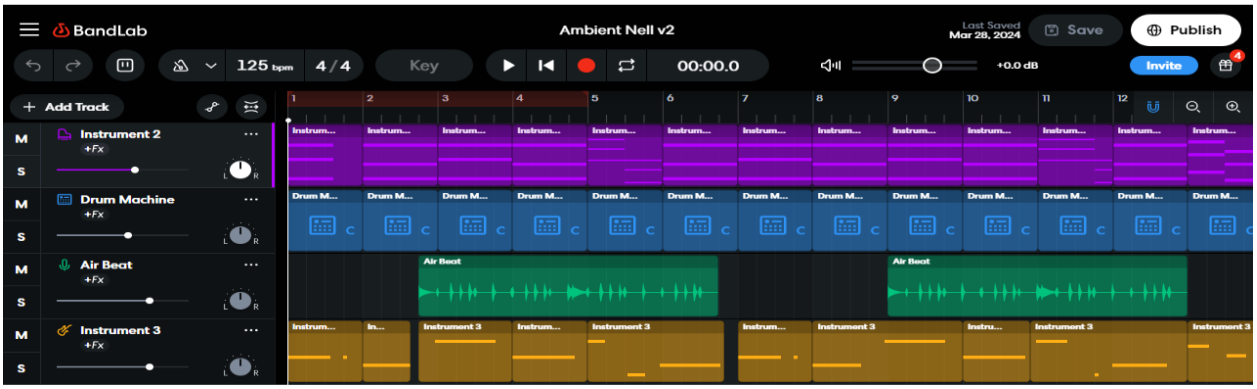

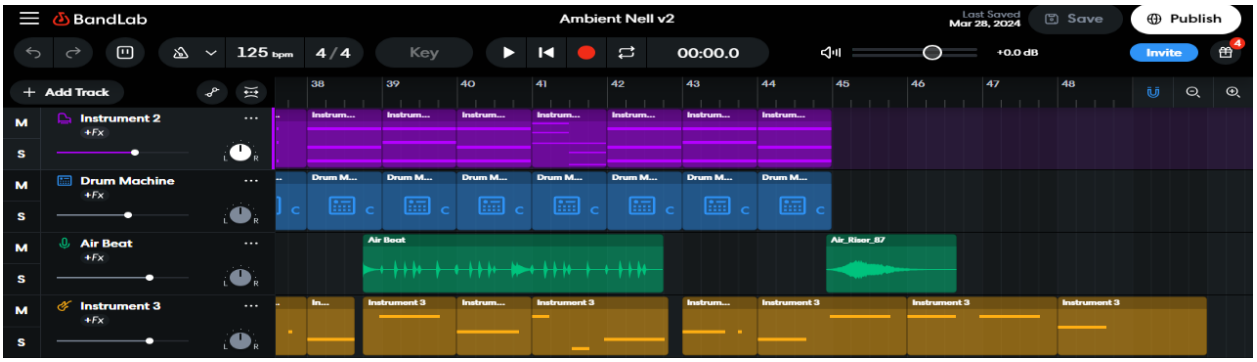

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How I used the music elements

When using the musical elements for the backing track it helped me to come up with a structure of its sounds. When adding the air beats, I didn't want them to just be playing all throughout the song instead I put them at the start of the song to introduce the ambient sound then I stopped it until it got to the middle of the track and added a few more air beats then I repeated this until the end of the song. I did this because I wanted to place them in parts of the song it would fit into instead of having it playing throughout and it not sounding right. The tempo I used for my backing track was 125bmp and the reason it is this fast for an ambient song was because if it was any slower, I would have to been able to sing it, but by making sure I had the air beats it would still give it that ambient feel and sound. The pitch of the backing track was a high sound and was major all throughout because the original song was very upbeat, I kept that when recreating it. The structure I had for the song was a long intro and had that on for a good duration of time, keeping it the same as the original song. Then I went into a verse, then I did the chorus twice and ended with an outro to finish off the song.

My strength and weaknesses

One of my strengths when using the backing track was being able to know when I came in to sing the song. By being able to do this would help me keep in time to the song and not being too far Infront or too far behind. Another strength of mind was being able to pick a part of the song that would link to new beginnings, I decided to use the chorus because the lyrics tell us that it is time to start over again and this could show how something new is going to happen in the singer's life.

One weakness of mine was adding chords into the backing track. The reason I found it hard is because I am not good this where chords go so it took some time to get them into the right place making it sound like the original song. another weakness of mine was adding the bass line because again I had to add the chords from the song but this time, I had to add an electric bass staccato to give it a more ambient tune this meant I had to change up what was already there to make the original chords sound different to the bass line. In the future I would have liked to have used a microphone when singing with the backing track to make my vocals louder. Something i would have liked to have added if it was possible when singing to my backing track was a video to get teenager more involved with the calmer sounds that young people don't really listen to and by having a Morden video with it would get them to feel more inspired.

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