



Lesson: Transcription with Virtual Instruments

Author: John Mlynczak

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Resources: Studio One® DAW, MIDI controller.

NAfME Standards:

5. Reading and notating music
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.

Objectives: Students will transcribe a tune using Studio One and Virtual Instruments.

Procedure:

1. Discuss transcription guidelines and identify a section of a tune for the assignment.
2. Create a new song in Studio One, and use the browse menu to select the audio file. Drag the file into the main window to create a new track.
3. Open the "Inspector" menu and set the file tempo to the tempo of the track. Set the metronome tempo to the file tempo as well.
4. In the "Inspector" menu, set the "Tempo" field to "Timestretch". Now the track tempo will change with the metronome. The track can also be transposed by entering the desired number of half steps in the "Transpose" field.
5. Highlight a selection of audio for transcription and create a loop.
6. Select a virtual instrument from the "Instruments" tab in the browse menu. Drag and drop the selected virtual instrument to create a new track.
7. Transcribe the selection of audio using the instrument track, Timestretch, and loop features.
8. Follow up by adjusting the difficulty of the passage, or have students recreate entire songs using virtual instruments in Studio One.