

Mazmu Islam

Independent Study & Mentorship

Mr. Speice

13 February 2018

Interview Assessment #5

Name of Professional: Michael Medina

Profession/Title: Professor of Audio Engineering and MIDI

Business/Company name: Collin College

Date of Interview: February 6, 2018

In this interview, I had the chance to speak with Professor Michael Medina, who was a long time studio musician, audio engineer and now a professor at Collin College of audio engineering and MIDI. Speaking with Professor Medina was very interesting because I was able to hear a very unique story compared to other interviews. Professor Medina explained to me how he did not grow up in a big city environment where it is easy to access music all around. Growing up in the rural town of Beeville, Texas, one would think it would be impossible to gain an interest in music in an area with a lack of music. However, against all odds, Professor Medina, gained an interest in music as he described the old jazz vinyls that would play around his house when he was young. From there, he applied to the University of North Texas, famous for their music program, and was able to gain the opportunity of a lifetime.

Professor Medina mentioned an important theme that I have seen throughout all of my interviews: networking. The reason Professor Medina was able to jumpstart his own career as a musician for bands and studios was through an unlikely coincidence of sharing a drum practice

room with a famous drummer. He explained how through covering for this drummer at one gig, Professor Medina was able to be hired for multiple gigs and later studio opportunities.

Comparing this interview with Professor Medina, I was surprised to gain insight into the importance of networking throughout many of my interviews. It solidified my idea of the entertainment industry being a climb through connections. I could connect the idea of networking in my topic of study with the core value of networking in ISM.

After getting to know some of the early musical influences of Professor Medina, I directed the conversation to what makes a song well-produced. I pleasantly surprise to hear that his answer centered very much around making the artist shine in the production. Seeing this passion, I knew that working with Professor Medina would allow me to flourish and gain valuable knowledge. I was able to learn much more about aspects of audio engineering such as MIDI. Having only a basic knowledge of what MIDI was, I was able to gain a deeper understanding of the mechanics of MIDI. Professor Medina explained how MIDI is a tracking of your finger movements, whether that be on piano or another instrument, and programs such as Pro Tools takes that electronic data you just sent and turns into a viable musical sound. This information then could be tuned to any instrument available in the program. I found this quite useful as I am someone who does not know how to play many instruments. This will allow me to create MIDI to mimic sounds of drum beats or other synths.

Seeing all the passion Professor Medina had for producing really made my excited for my own musical journey in ISM. A big part of ISM is the experience one has with their mentor. In order to have a good experience, one must have a good mentor. With this in mind, I asked Professor Medina if he would be able to mentor me. Fortunately, his answer was a yes. I am

looking forward to this mentorship in the future, and I know that I will be gaining valuable experience like no other.