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Independent Study & Mentorship

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Can a Hobby Become a Career?

Research Assessment #1

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Subject: Music Composition and Production Career Outlook

Works Cited

"Music Producer: Job Duties, Career Outlook, and Education Prerequisites." *Learn.org* -

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Oughton, Jack. "What Does It Take to Be a Music Producer?" *The Guardian*. Guardian

News and Media, 05 May 2013. Web.

The music industry has a broad spectrum of careers that all work together with a recording artist in order to give the artist the best music direction and exposure. Many times, these careers overlap one another. Prominent examples that I've seen this overlapping is with artists like Taylor Swift and Bruno Mars, who write their own music and oversee the production of their own album. However, and unfortunately, many recording artists take no part in the creation of their music. This is why in this career research, I will be looking into the jobs that are centered around creating the music. Music producers are the main people who are responsible for the creation and recording of the music.

To begin, according to Learn.org, the growth of jobs in the music producing field sits at a low 3%. Although this number shows very small growth, it is understandable because how I interpret the career as a music producer is that they are self-made and are independent before signing onto different music labels or projects. In this case, it would explain how there would be little growth in the producing field as music labels may be more likely to stick with their already successful music producers and not sign more music producers to different projects. Music producing is an incredibly selective career, and it is best to use the outlet of ISM so see whether I have the talent to be successful is a career that sees only a small growth in jobs in the future. The average salary sits at almost \$60,000, however, this may fluctuate depending on how many projects one signs onto or the number of clients a studio may have. Although this amount of salary is still substantial, the instability of the income can be worrisome. This emphasizes the amount of hardwork and dedication that goes into producing music and how those who are at the top of the career did not get their success handed to them on a silver platter. In the same sense, producing my own album will require my own hard work and dedication in order to create music of quality.

In regards to education, a bachelor degree is recommended while some music companies may even require a master's degree. These degrees should be in fine arts, music production or sound engineering in order to have the best knowledge of current equipment and music genres when composing or producing. One class that I believe would be most beneficial to take as a high school student would be music theory. Music producers are tasked to know musical terms and how to write and arrange music on paper. Music theory would provide a great gateway to get a head start on one's musical education. I had planned to take AP Music Theory as a course to

guide me in my ISM journey. Due to not being able to take, it had affected my choice of topic at first before taking the liberty to learn music theory lessons by myself and with the help of a mentor in the future. Music theory will allow one to learn how to get the tune in the mind can be written into something understood by those in the music industry.

When it comes to marketing yourself as a music producer, I gained great advice from an article interviewing the music producer Marc Kinchen, and surprisingly, the advice was very similar with past experiences I have had in ISM. To network was the biggest advice that was given in ISM as well advice on how to become a successful music producer. Networking has allowed me to meet other professionals in the field that I had studied previously and networking also helps music producer work with and learn from professionals that may be more experienced than them. Networking is also a mode of getting your work better known to professionals in the music industry who can help you connect to famous artists or earn you record deals from major record labels. The opportunities are endless when networking, and my previous knowledge of networking for ISM will allow me to meet professionals who will grant me the tools to begin the ambitious journey or writing and producing an album.

When working in the studio, there is a lot of jargon used that I may not understand. Words such canon and circle of fifths are concepts that are critical when writing music and such terms are ones that needed to be researched further to become well versed in music production. Also, when looking at recording studios in the past, there is always a switchboard with buttons and lights. Instead of thinking it looks of something from science fiction, more research needs to be done on the mechanics of this board in order to understand the tools that could be used to

create music of quality. It is exciting to know the amount of freedom in sounds they have when working in a studio.

Anytime one is choosing a career in the entertainment industry, they should know the difficulties that come to reach a point of success and maintaining that success. A music producer in the limelight must know how to adequately contribute to current music trends as well as set trends of their own. Music producing is a versatile career that could be taken into other industries aside from the music industry such as the film industry when scoring movies. However, becoming successful in music production does not take only studying to reach there. It also takes a creative mind and a large amount of luck. This is why I am hesitant to pursue music as a career in reality due to instability not being one of the things I want to live with on my shoulders, but the amount of opportunities and what could be drives me to go beyond what would be my best and see where my artistic freedom can take me through ISM.