

Mazmu Islam

Independent Study & Mentorship

Mr. Speice

22 February 2018

Interview Assessment #6

Name of Professional: Bradford Cox

Profession/Title: Professor of Audio Engineering

Business/Company name: Collin College

Date of Interview: February 21, 2018

This interview with Professor Cox was very different in comparison to the past interviews. What intrigued me at first was his very strong personality and leadership quality. He was someone that knew a lot about audio engineering and the many aspects of it. Not only is he experienced in audio engineering in music, which is the primary reason why I wanted to interview him, but he also has a lot of experience in the movies realm as well with sound mixing for films. It was great to meet someone who wields a diverse experience.

Starting from my general questions about Professor Cox, it was to my surprise that much of his early influences in music came from classical music, specifically from Virgil Fox, who was a organ player. The organ is not used so much in today's music compared to the music heard in church, so it was definitely a unique point of Professor Cox's music journey that interested me. A question that has followed me throughout the year is the role of music theory in music production specifically. Granted, in composition, music theory is needed to create balanced chords and notes, however, it surprised when Professor Cox answered how music theory is very

important in the process of music production. Although it is not as intricately involved as music theory is in composition, it is very important when trying to communicate musically between the team. This really motivates to keep learning more about music theory, so that when I begin the recording of my final product, I will be able to communicate effectively with my own team in the future.

Continuing our interview, I asked Professor Cox as to why he decided to specialize in his particular field, and to my surprise, the reason seemed to be held within a common concern of mine. Something that veers me away from pursuing a music career is the unstableness. Professor Cox used to practice as a musician, and the constant aim to be better than the other and the competition lead him to live a very stressed lifestyle. So, Professor Cox decided to settle down and work on a more stable profession as an audio engineer for film and television. It shows to me how audio engineering can be applied to multiple industries in entertainment. Also, while speaking to Professor Cox, he gave me great advice to develop my own ear when producing. He me how dissecting the music and finding out what sounds I like or fit the piece is a great way to create a product that is to my satisfaction.

The bulk of the interview was spent on the equipment that is required in one's own music studio. The standard programs, microphone, and speakers were parts of a studio that I was already familiar with. However, there was another piece of equipment that is required, which is the mic pre. I had not heard about this equipment in my research, so it was interesting to learn about its functions from Professor Cox. A mic pre is something that translates what is being recorded through the mic or for MIDI to the computer. Without a quality mic pre, the music will not be recorded onto the computer at the best quality possible.

I was also given recommendations for each type of equipment as well as the different programs available for composing and recording/mixing. All in all, creating and recording music is an expensive hobby once investing money into these equipments. However, I learned a lot about how to be a good artist in the studio in that I should be “not the problem” in the recording studio, as Professor Cox said. Preparing and recording my music is something I am looking forward to very much