



**QCMUG Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2010
Bettendorf Public Library**

Attendance

A total of 14 members were present at the meeting. Sue Berger, Keith Claussen, Brian Dobbins, Jim Hall, Wilma Hauser, Carol Klindt, Rosanne Krubsack, Dave Ochs, Arnold Olson, Don Patridge, Don Schaefer, Kathy Schroeder, Teri Taylor, and Cynthia Weinberger. Our single guest was Eileen Gaura and four new members (Olenka Gadzik, Mary Gunnare, Jim Smalley, and Jackie Christopher) were added.

Business Meeting

- The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm.
- The Treasurer reported a balance of \$2,592.07
- St. Ambrose University Tech Fair - Tuesday, April 6th.
- Benefits - discounts on magazines (MacLife & MacWorld), talk of making list exclusive (which almost no one was in favor of), and discount on a hard shell carry case for laptops. Brian Dobbins of MacMan Consulting will be setting up an exclusive offer to QCMUG members as well. An issue was raised by Don Patridge on keeping the list of paid members up to date so an email could be sent out, but this would be a manual process. Keith mentioned that maybe a custom list could be made within the Google Groups page.
- Keith Claussen motioned for purchase of a new banner (approx. \$200) with Jim Hall seconding. Motion approved. We'll be working with Teri Taylor of Creative Imprints (recently joined) on design & ordering.

Program

Pro Tools vs Garage Band - Pro Tools is preferred by pros, but is only available to those that buy a hardware device from Digi Design. Garage Band is much simpler & cheaper, for those that don't want to spend hundreds of dollars.

When it comes to hardware compatibility & stability, the Mac rules!

Pro Tools is considered multi track recording software, which can record up to 96 instruments at a time!

Mbox (DigiDesign hardware) comes with Pro Tools.

Mastering session is the post production layout in the program where the sounds are laid out in a timeline like fashion. This is saved into a file so it can be reopened at anytime later for additional changes or to create a new master recording (exported file, burned to CD, etc).

Tracking - artist record in from of a mic.

Programs like Pro Tools replaced tape

Mixing phase - puts the different tracks together to make a song

Equalizer - watches & can change the frequency in the tracks

20hz-20,000khz is the max range of a human.

It's the engineer's job to make sure it doesn't sound awful! But the trend is that music is louder than ever, pushing the limits of distortion and damage to equipment.

Mastering is the last thing in the flow. makes the songs, CDs, etc.

loudness wars - higher volume, less dynamic range - really quiet parts vs really loud parts.

Going back to compatibility, Pro Tools never officially worked with Microsoft Vista.

Logic Pro used to be eMagic - Apple now owns it.

Logic is very deep vs Pro Tools. All programs have the end result, each takes a different road to get there.

Apogee is now apple too, they make hardware similar to DigiDesign.

Abelton Live - does what the other programs, but also can perform live mixes in an on stage situation. Works with boards like the Novation Launchpad.

Another device (doesn't rely on a Mac to operate) is the Jazzmutant Lemur (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_BMnwlbWJw) Discussion turned to the iPad & how it may have a substantial impact on devices like this one, giving artist / audio pros another tool to use.

The Mac is not as vulnerable to such things as spyware. The best situation to have while working on audio is to use a Mac (compatibility) which is not connected to the Internet (stability / security). An infected machine can crash without warning, at any time. Having a stable environment is important to doing professional work (losing data, having to ask artist to come back in & record everything from scratch is not a good thing!).

The Mac is simple plug & play compatibility

Another application (controversial at times) is AutoTune. It allows the editing of a specific or individual note in someone's recording of a voice track. Say, for example, a singer missed one note during a performance (3-5 min song). The note can be simply fixed using AutoTune!

iPhone apps such as Beat Maker & SoundMatrix can do on the fly / live mixes or beats.

DNA (Direct Note Access) by Melodyne - is AutoTune for recorded instruments, note by note manipulation.

Online collaboration is very common today. Digital files are shared, can work with customers from all over the world.

Importing analog audio records - Numark turntable & Audacity (free editing software).

Links:

ProTools / Mbox: www.digidesign.com

Logic: www.apple.com/logicstudio

Abelton Live!: www.abelton.com

Apogee Hardware: www.apogeedigital.com

AutoTune: www.antarestech.com/products/auto-tune-evo.shtml

BeatMaker for iPhone: www.intua.net/products.html

SoundMatrix for iPhone: <http://soundmatrix.johnholdsworth.com>

DNA by Melodyne: www.celemony.com/cms/index.php?id=dna

Numark Turntable: www.numark.com/ttusb

Open Forum

There wasn't any open forum issues presented to the group.

Meeting was adjourned about 8:20 p.m.

Next Month's Meeting:

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 20.

Respectfully submitted by Keith Claussen, QCMUG Secretary

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