

Virtual Ensemble Audio Editing

1. Gather audio files for importing to your Digital Audio Workstation (DAW)
 - a. Mono .wav files are recommended!
2. Create your audio session. 48kHz and 24bit are recommended. 44.1kHz and/or 16bit are ok
3. Import audio
 - a. The DAW should convert most files to match your session
 - b. Some files may need to be converted for the DAW to recognize them (i.e. m4a) with a different software such as iTunes
4. Re-arrange tracks in some meaningful way.
 - a. i.e. For virtual choir tracks my preference was SATB, followed by “other” (solos, percussion/snapping, count in, etc.), with a Master fader at the end/bottom
5. Set up your session to work in bars/beats mode
6. Set the Tempo
7. Switch to Grid mode
 - a. Adjust your grid to your desired bar/beat division (eight note, quarter note, etc.)
 - b. You will be changing this frequently
8. Time align your files
 - a. Pro Tools has a “Nudge” mode that allows you to move an audio file incrementally using the +/- buttons
9. “Group” your tracks
 - a. By division, part, all, etc. I have S1/S2/soprano, etc.
10. Adjust the “pan” of each track. This helps with intonation
 - a. I chose to leave the basses in the middle and spread out each section across the stereo image. Come up with your own stereo image
11. Adjust the balance of each voice in each part.
12. Once you have each part balanced, balance the parts together for the ensemble sound
13. Consider muting voices or sections when they are not singing/playing for more than a few bars to cut out extraneous noises
14. Adjust the melody or solo lines to ride on top of the mix
15. Time align any additional tracks and add them in to your mix
16. Add equalization and/or compression on individual tracks or globally (via the master fader) as needed.
17. Adjust your Master fader so that the overall output reaches 0dB without going over 0dB (distortion)
18. Export your file for syncing with video
 - a. Make sure to check with your video editor to see what settings they need
 - i. Most video editors need a 48kHz version
 - b. CD quality is 44.1kHz and 16bit
 - c. MP3 is a nice option for sharing and posting online

Good luck and have fun!

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