

Digital Dimensions
Mr. Goodman
Period 2

This is a class that uses computers and the digital music software Logic Pro X. Logic is a complete compositional, arranging and mixing tool, and is an excellent vehicle for creating original musical compositions. The program uses the computer keyboard as a trigger, with each letter key assigned a musical note, eliminating the need for external devices to compose and play. Logic Pro X also allows for real time recording of 'real' instruments, and later in the year we will be incorporating organics into the electronics. We also will be exploring podcasting.

Logic Pro X is capable of literally thousands of sounds and colors, and we will spend the first quarter exploring those 'instruments' as we learn the basics of music composition and construction. No music experience is required to take this class, although it is always helpful, and musical neophytes are encouraged to come create. You just need a willingness to try new things and to be creative. This class offers a *safe* environment for experimentation and a chance to grow artistically. There will be a heavy emphasis on improvisation and free form expression.

We'll start off by exploring the program's many pre-loaded sounds and colors, and spend the first several weeks becoming familiar with the basic operations. While we learn we will be creating our own small music soundscapes. Logic allows for much personal expression within the confines of the program, so each piece can be unique and reflect your own musical sensibilities. As we are creating we will also be learning about the building blocks of music, and how and why certain tones, rhythms, notes and chords can evoke specific emotions. Feeling blue? Happy? Anxious? We will learn how to express it musically. After we have explored the basic sonic landscape we will progress to creating more complex works, using editing and manipulations, i.e. tweaking with equalization, mixing and track management. We will then turn our exercises into credible songs.

As we develop our skills, we will find that musical inspiration is everywhere, and we will learn how to express it through our pieces. For our culminating project, we will be using some of Frank Sinatra's incredible visual art as our muse, capturing his paintings on our sonic landscapes.

A laptop is not necessary, but is recommended. Keep in mind we use a Mac version, and a limited amount of downloads are still available through the school. A good set of headphones is required, as is a good set of listening ears! There will be opportunities throughout the year to perform at the Arts House Café, as well as on History of Radio's radio show on WVOX.