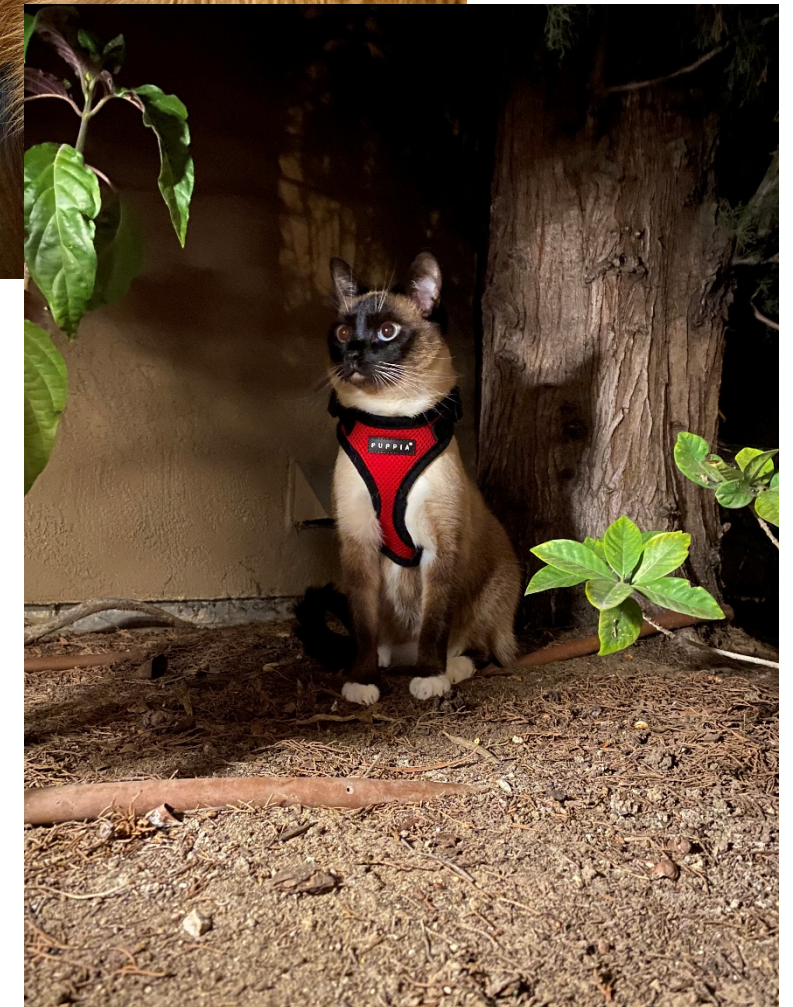


Behind the Scenes of the Audio in 'Say No! More'

Julie Buchanan
Composer/Sound Designer (Freelance)



About Me



Overview

- 🐱 Concept/aesthetic
- 🐱 Working with references
- 🐱 Thematic development
- 🐱 Composition tips
- 🐱 Synth tips

What is Say No! More?



How did I choose this style?

- ★ Match the low-poly visuals
- ★ Silly/quirky aesthetic
- ★ '90's retro
- ★ Low budget

Creating an instrument palette

- ▶▶ Deconstruct references for ideas
- ▶▶ What do I want to add?
- ▶▶ What kind of mood do I want to create for the player?

Types of instruments

- ♪ Lead
- ♪ Bass
- ♪ Rhythmic
- ♪ Riser
- ♪ Ornamental
- ♪ Drums
- ♪ SFX
- ♪ Pads
- ♪ Comedic
- ♪ Serious
- ♪ General
- ♪ Heart-warming



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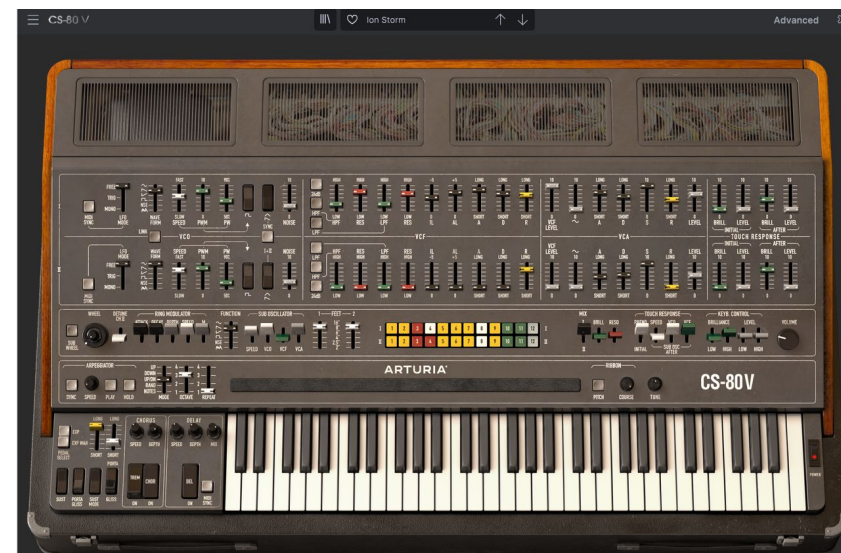
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Thematic Development

- ✓ Find a mood/aesthetic first
- ✓ Main theme was a happy accident
- ✓ Why does it work?
- ✓ Adapting it for other tracks

MONITOR FX

Lots of synths!



How do I make synths sound good & expressive?

- ✓ Variety
- ✓ Arrangement
- ✓ Performance
- ✓ Mix

Variety

- 🐱 More synths more better
- 🐱 Aesthetic and rhythmic variety
- 🐱 Re-use and build on templates
- 🐱 Instruments that fit different moods and functions



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Track Name	Volume	Pan	25%R	ROUTE	M	S	Channel
Melody							1
majesty funk_stem							2
talkie_stem							3
Pan							4
aggressive descendin							5
agressive massive_st							6
harsh vibrato_stem							7
Pan							8
melbourne talkie_ste							9
digital bass_stem							10
Berlin_stem							11
Pan							12
Berlin pan							13
Sequence Me_stem							14
Pads							15
Brass_stem							16
Swell_stem							17
Miami Lead_stem							18
Key to Clarity_stem							19
Bioluminescent 2_ste							20
Beauty Pad_stem							21
nights into dreams_s							22
Lovely Mallet_stem							23
Rhythmic							24
drivegun descending							25
Tape stop_stem							26
Drivegun_stem							27
Miami Lead Stabs_ste							28
Key to Clarity stabs_s							29
perc radio noise_ster							30
arp_stem							31
arp no ping pong							32
noise riser_stem							33
filter sweep_stem							34



1.1.00 / 0:00.000

[Stopped]

BPM
127

1.0

Selection:

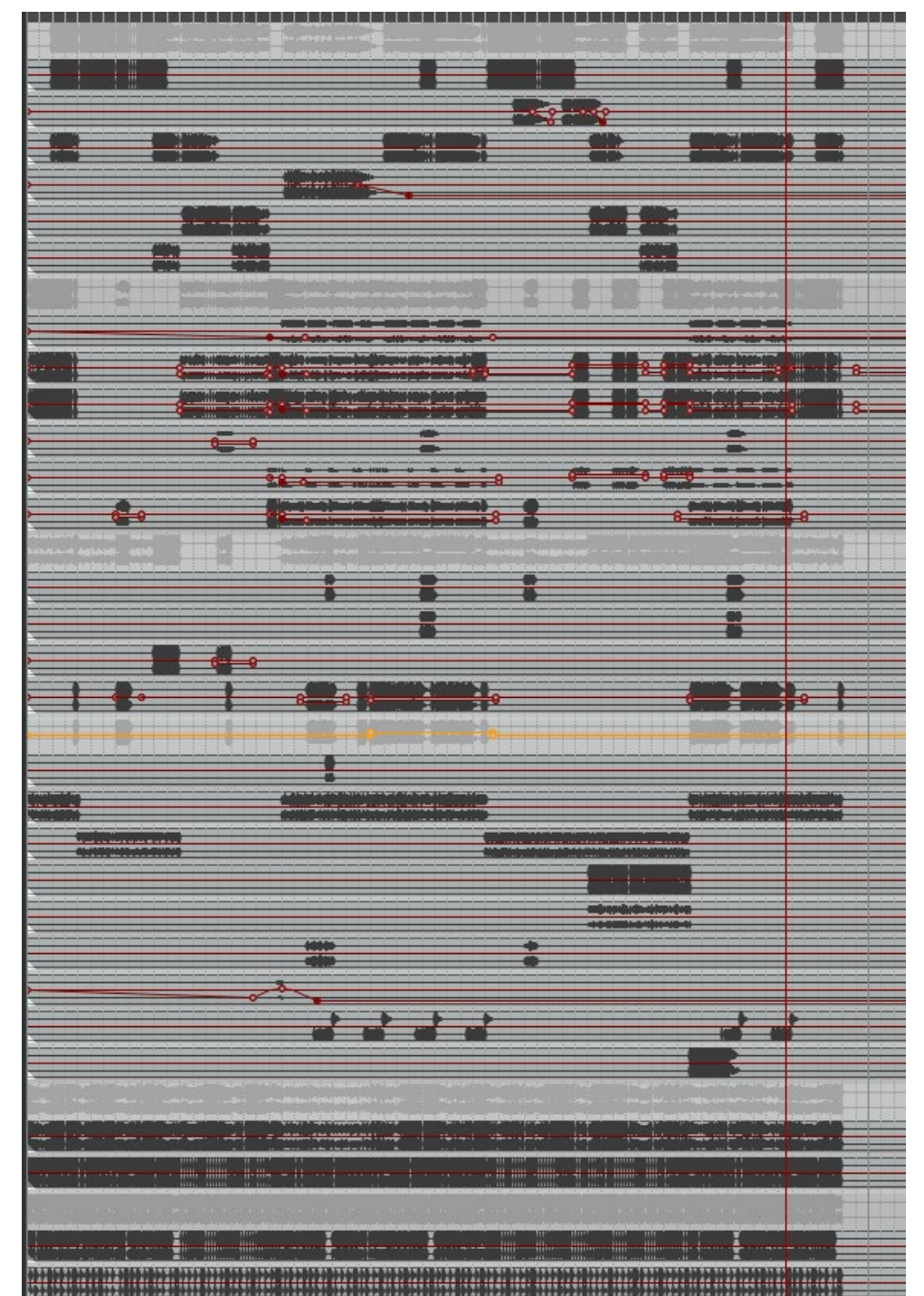
1.1.00

1.1.00

0.0.00

Arrangement

- ♪ Cover all frequency bases!
- ♪ Double, triple, quadruple
- ♪ Reference your writing strengths
- ♪ Recognize genre signifiers
- ♪ Switch up your rhythmic elements



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Track Name	Volume	Route	Input	M	S	Channel
Melody				M	S	1
harsh melody_stem				M	S	2
boots_stem				M	S	3
agressive massive_st				M	S	4
Arp Massive_stem				M	S	5
harsh vibrato_stem				M	S	6
				M	S	
Pad				M	S	8
Beauty Pad_stem				M	S	9
Brass_stem				M	S	10
Miami Lead Stabs_st				M	S	11
Lovely Strings_stem				M	S	12
Key to Clarity stabs_s				M	S	13
Drivegun_stem				M	S	
Rhythm				M	S	15
Lovely Mallet_stem				M	S	16
melbourne talkie_ste				M	S	17
talkie_stem				M	S	18
Tape stop_stem				M	S	19
Pan		36%R				
whistle_stem				M	S	20
sharp arp				M	S	21
arp				M	S	22
Sequence Me_stem				M	S	23
nights into dreams_s				M	S	24
Berlin_stem				M	S	25
noise riser_stem				M	S	26
filter sweep_stem				M	S	27
pitch mod_stem				M	S	
Bass				M	S	29
Prophet Bass_stem				M	S	
Kick				M	S	31
Perc				M	S	32
perc hi hat_stem				M	S	33
perc snare_stem				M	S	34

A screenshot of a music production software interface, likely Ableton Live. The top section shows a timeline with time markers in minutes and seconds (e.g., 1:00, 25:100, 29:100, 33:100, 37:100, 41:100, 45:100, 49:100, 53:100, 57:100, 61:100, 65:100). Below the timeline, there are several tracks, each with a piano roll view. The piano rolls show musical notation, including notes, rests, and MIDI data. A red vertical line is visible, indicating the current playhead position. The interface is dark-themed, and the overall layout is typical of digital audio workstations.

53.1.00	8.0.00
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Track Name	Volume	Pan	Routing	Automation	Channel
Melody	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	1
Lovely Strings_stem	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	2
Pan	100%	center			
saw mono	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	3
cool down	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	4
Pan	100%	center			
boots_stem	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	5
Pan	100%	center			
talkie	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	6
Pan	100%	14%L			
resonant dawn	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	
Pan	100%	28%R			
Submelody	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	8
flute	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	9
whistle	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	10
harsh melody	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	11
Pan	100%	28%R			
Sequence Me	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	12
Pan	100%	13%L			
nights into dreams	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	13
Pan	100%	center			
salton 1	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	14
Pan	100%	center			
Pan flute	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	15
Pan	100%	26%L			
sharp arp	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	16
Pan	100%	center			
hard pluck	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	17
Pan	100%	28%R			
soft pluck	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	18
Pan	100%	center			
tube	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	19
metallic	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	20
Pan	100%	30%R			
cruise control melody	100%	center	ROUTE	M S	21

Pan flute [input] Input 1

Rate: 1.0

Performance

- ♪ Articulation
- ♪ Ornamental details
- ♪ Pitch bend, tremolo, glide, LFOs, phase, envelopes

Windows taskbar showing search bar, taskbar icons (File Explorer, Chrome, Edge, Spotify, Discord, Steam, PowerPoint, Word, OneDrive, etc.), and system tray (4:31 PM, 6/3/2021).

Mix

- 🐱 Scoop and cut
- 🐱 FX automation
- 🐱 Add shape (especially with doubled instruments)
- 🐱 Tape saturation
- 🐱 Panning
- 🐱 Side-chaining the thing that's side-chaining another thing that's side-chaining the thing being side-chained.



11:15 AM
6/3/2021

The GDC logo is positioned at the top center of the slide. It consists of the letters 'GDC' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The background of the slide is a dark blue space-themed illustration featuring various celestial bodies, including a large purple planet with a blue patterned surface on the left, a ringed planet in the upper right, and several smaller planets and moons in the lower half. Thin white lines representing orbital paths or a network are scattered across the dark background.

GDC

Thank you for watching!!!