

The Music Engineering Lab

by Jeff Weiss



Those of you who have had classes with Dr. Stetten likely know about his love for music, as he often uses music as an example when teaching signals and systems concepts in his circuits and imaging courses. You may not know that he is actually a talented pianist, guitarist, bassist, and vocalist who studied at the New England Conservatory of Music. That is why Dean Shuman entrusted Dr. Stetten to transform one of the new design rooms on the third floor of Benedum into the new Music Engineering Lab (MEL), and

teach a class called Music Engineering. Students in the class learn basic skills in recording engineering and learn to record and edit music with a digital audio workstation (DAW) and various pieces of analog and digital hardware.

The MEL is a state-of-the-art facility, with its soundproof walls designed to eliminate resonant ambient tones. In addition to a professional-grade DAW and associated hardware, the MEL features a Steinway baby grand piano, a Roland TD-30KV virtual drum set, a Yamaha MIDI keyboard, and high-quality CAD, Rode and Audio Technical microphones.

As a student in the course, I have had the opportunity to apply my engineering skills to the art of music. I have spent countless hours learning how to operate the equipment, use MIDI, and edit with the DAW, as well as helping Dr. Stetten continue to improve the MEL. Working at a recording studio involves a lot of debugging, but producing of a high quality music recording is ultimately very satisfying. In class, I have even had the opportuni-

ty to record a song with Dr. Stetten. In the future, students who have completed the course will be able to stay involved in the MEL and put their skills to use by recording musicians from the Pitt community. If you're a musician and interested in taking this one credit course please contact Dr. Stetten at stetten@pitt.edu. You can also learn more about the MEL at <http://vialab.sp.ri.cmu.edu/MEL/>.



Producing equipment at MEL