

GarageBand for Keyboard Players

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Today's Setlist

- Power Trio — MIDI, loops, digital audio
- Uses for musicians
- Gear and connections
- Quick run-through
- Arranging and editing
- Effective music
- Mixing
- Import/Export options
- Tips and Techniques

Power Trio

- GarageBand is a hybrid music application that includes tools found in a variety of other music programs
 - Basic MIDI sequencer
 - Loop-sequencer
 - Digital audio recorder
 - Oh, and effects and amp-modeling too

Uses for Musicians

- Not the best tool for full-blown album production. However...
 - Musical sketch pad
 - Rehearsal tool
 - Quick audio editor/effects processor
 - Background music generator

Gear

- Fast Mac (GB is processor-intensive)
- Keyboard with USB and/or MIDI out (and in)
 - Enough keys, good feel, basic controller functions
- MIDI interface if missing USB connection
- Audio interface
- Monitors/headphones
- Mixing board

Making connections

- Hardware connections
 - USB to USB
 - MIDI
 - Audio input devices (mics, instruments)
- Software
 - Audio MIDI Setup

Quick run-through

- Song assembly via loops
- Changing keys
- Recording MIDI
- “loop” recording with MIDI
- Editing your performance
- Mixing

Arranging and editing

- Drumming for keyboard players
- Understand instrument ranges and limitations
- Variation is the spice of life
- Using quantize to create a smoother groove (but not too smooth!)

Effective music

- GarageBand effects once-over
 - Typical effects: reverb, delay, chorus, overdrive, tremolo...
 - Explore the effects pop-up menus
 - Don't fear "guitar" effects
 - Tweaking and saving effects

Mixing

- No master mixer — use track volumes
- Creating fades with Master Track controls
- GarageBand allows recording of controller data such as Pan and Modulation via MIDI

Import/Export options

- By default, you can't import MIDI into GB.
 - The trick is Dent du MIDI
- Converting MIDI tracks to improve performance
- Bouncing submixes to iTunes and back

Tips and Techniques

- Instant Eno
 - Creating ambient compositions with the pentatonic scale and different length loops
- Creating GarageBand-compatible sounds
- Where do you go from here?