

Virtual Insanity: Teaching During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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View the Summit presentation at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xt88eX0TpMA>

Abstract

The impact that COVID-19 has had on pedagogical instruction of recording technologies, the music business, podcasting, and other aspects of audio production cannot be overstated. Many of us scrambled in the early shift towards online instruction and have continued to innovate ways to make virtual and face-to-face instruction work during a global pandemic. This presentation will share strategies for maintaining a rigorous curriculum while meeting the educational and emotional needs of students during this unprecedented time.

In the virtual teaching space, the pandemic accelerated technologies that were already in place such as Zoom and Canvas, but also exposed the weaknesses of these platforms for the higher fidelity needs of professional audio production. Browser-based audio recording platforms such as Riverside, Squadcast, Zencastr, and Bandlab have attempted to fill these higher-level needs with varying levels of success. A platform that receives specific attention in this presentation is Soundtrap. Owned by Spotify, Soundtrap is a browser-based digital audio workstation (DAW) that can be used for music and podcast recording, post-production, and publishing. Emphasis is also placed upon safety innovations for face-to-face learning including caring for students well-being alongside their educational goals.

Keywords: music business pedagogy, music production pedagogy, COVID-19, podcasting, Soundtrap



Jason Lee Guthrie is an Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Studies at Clayton State University in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Guthrie is a media historian interested in the intersections of creativity and economics, with specific interests in the creative industries and intellectual property law.

Steven A. Potaczek is focused on helping musical artists and students discover and express their potential as creative careerists. As a music producer, he has worked with some of the top names in the industry (The Band Perry, The Barenaked Ladies, and Skillet to name a few), and has successfully



partnered with organizations such as MTV, *National Geographic*, and the Heartland Film Festival. He has received numerous industry accolades (including the Gospel Music Academy's Song of the Year award and the John Lennon Songwriting Award), toured nationally as a major label artist with a Billboard Top 40 hit, and landed musical placements on several prominent television shows such as Parks and Rec, New Girl, and CBS Evening News. As an educator, Potaczek has taught at the collegiate level for over a decade and been a guest speaker at various music and film conferences. He holds a Master of Science Degree in Music Technology from Indiana University and is currently developing a program in Commercial Music for Samford University that will have concentrations in Songwriting, Music Production, Performance, and Music Business. Perhaps most importantly, he absolutely loves inspiring and educating the next generation of music artists and industry leaders.



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