

Creating a Radio Documentary About Music's Influence On Mood

Kyle Pickard

Faculty Mentor: Erica Haskell, Ph.D.

Element 1: Fieldwork/Collecting Interviews

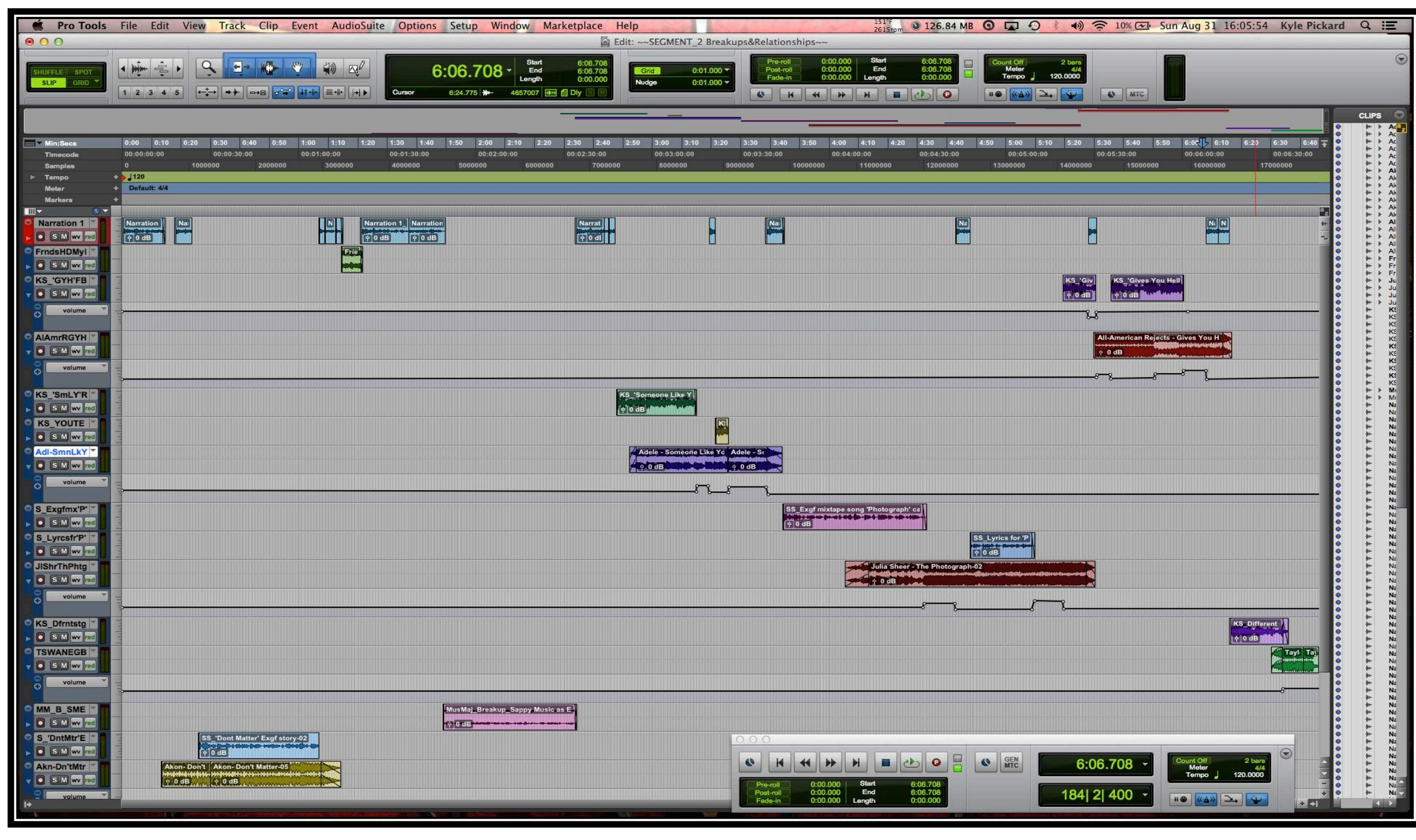
In my first month, I created a consent form, passed the IRB review (Institutional Review Board for human subjects), and collected interviews. I introduced myself to various individuals (18+) and interviewed them about the five topics found in the documentary.



One Recorded Interview.



The Zoom H1 digital recorder.

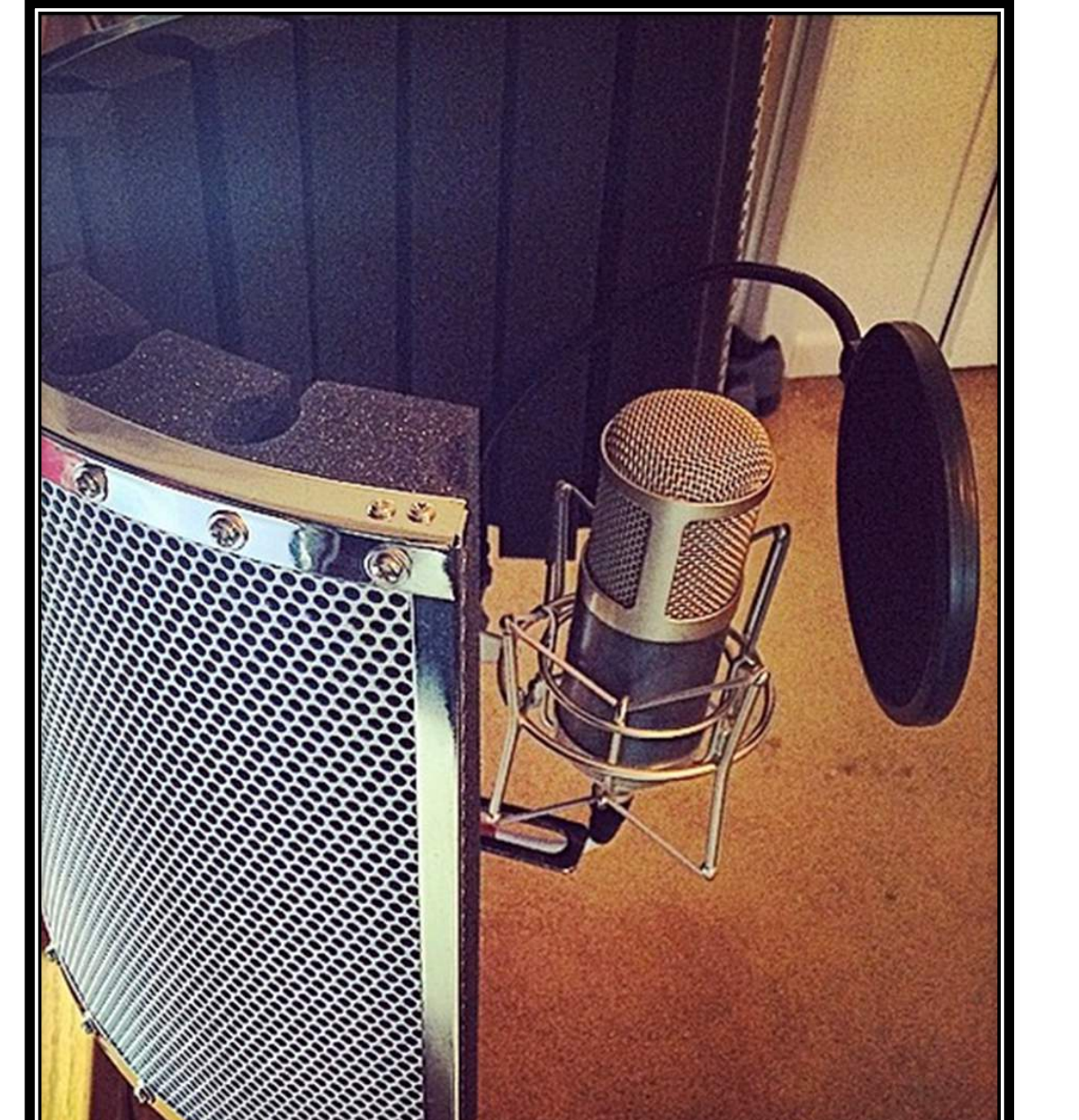


Element 2: Audio Editing, Mixing & Mastering

The editing work involved bringing the raw interviews into the studio to create the documentary. I broke each interview into individual clips and organized them by themes, which became the topics of the five documentary segments.



Kyle Pickard in the studio.



Mic Setup for narration.

Outcome

- Collected over 20 interviews
- Music can be used to influence overall mindset based on individual backgrounds, experiences, and musical tastes.
- Created a radio documentary based on the following topics:

1. Genres' effect on mood
2. Motivation
3. Relationships & breakups
4. Memories
5. Working through tough times

Fieldwork

Studio Work

Acknowledgements:

Thank you to University of New Haven for making this research possible. A big thanks to Erica Haskell for being my mentor throughout this process and lending her ethnomusicologist expertise to better my project. Thanks to Carol Withers & Janice Sanderson for keeping me organized and getting me the supplies I needed. Lastly, thank you to the many individuals that allowed me to interview them and use their words and voices in my documentary.



Downtown New Haven – location of fieldwork.



Going Forward

The final documentary will be aired on the university's radio station, 88.7 WNHU West Haven. This research focused on the collection of field recordings and the dissemination of the material I collected. Through the synthesis of field recordings, narration and music, I have created a documentary that developed my skills as an audio engineer. This research opens doors to further research that can **potentially** propel music to be a 'product' similar to over-the-counter medicine, which would further develop the music therapy realm. By knowing how certain music affects someone, music can be tailored to individuals to help alleviate symptoms of unhealthy mental processes.

What's next?