

DANIELLE MOORE

TALKING TECH, LOCKDOWN AND THE IMPORTANCE OF LIVE MUSIC

Ian Davies

What role does technology play in your sound (previously and during lockdown)?

Pre-lockdown, most of our recording as a trio team was done in the studio in Nottingham. There is an extensive set up over there with various outboards, a sound desk, various synths and loop stations available to choose from. Most of the drum programmes are either part of logic or samples the lads have taken from old car boot vinyl purchases, or indeed live takes from our own drummer. In a usual "jam" situation, Chris (Todd) would set up a drum loop on Logic, Jim (Baron) would play keys, initially with me writing vocal lines using a Boss RC-30 loop station. This allows me to record a number of short ideas instantly so I don't forget, which is usual! During lockdown

the Notts studio has been out of action, so my simple setup at home in the attic involves quite simply Logic and my Samson Go Mic, although I have just purchased a Rode NT 1-A usb mic which goes through a phantom power/sound card. I'm yet to become familiar with this though, so haven't quite tweeted the sound.



How does your practice as an artist connect with technologies, music or otherwise?

I have to admit, I've never pursued a love for technology, but have realised the importance of knowing and learning more as time progresses, especially in the current situation. I went on a couple of Logic courses so I could record vocals on my own, which was not only great to learn amongst a class of varied abilities and I just loved making mistakes whilst learning. I use the recorder on my iPhone all the time for getting little ideas down especially when travelling as I pick up on conversations and often they inspire lyrics; something I've struggled with in lockdown because of lack of social scenarios. My Mac laptop is my lifeline as it has allowed me to broadcast a weekly radio show via OBS which pairs audio and visual and it also manages my DJ mixes. Really, my Mac is my main work tool.



Riffs

Do we need technology to make art?

Well, that would depend if you mean recordable art or spontaneous live art. I believe art becomes more accessible through technology. I can't write music too well, so I don't know how else we would record or retain information without technology. I also believe technology has made it easier for those who haven't had the joy of learning a musical instrument; there are so many programmes and toys now it can be fun and relatively inexpensive. Whilst I don't think we need technology to make art, I feel it's a wonderful addition to the progression of this amazing thing.

Have accidental innovations or moments with technology contributed to your work?

Being a non-playing musician, I've often tinkered and dabbled with the synth sounds putting them through various Logic sounds ...creating warped wonky twisted pitches, but mainly my tech dabbling involves the loop station and stumbling across voice changers on the TC Helicon, which offers endless banks of vocal effects which add so much more interest to a standard voice like mine. Doubling and trebling, harmonising and pitch shifting is a great way to write melodies and accidentally make something completely different sounding. Other than that, recording the sounds of basic everyday items - like umbrellas opening and closing and banging radiators and playing the recording backwards - is accidental as it gets!



Have you got a favourite piece of tech that you use when making music?

The Logic reverbs are ace!!! I love messing around with them and the other effects are equally as good. I'm also loving my TC Helicon VoiceLive Touch. I use it in every gig and it adds depth, distortion and interest to my voice. It also makes me feel like I'm in control of something savvy.

What do you think the future of music and the music industry is, especially in a post-COVID-19 world?

That's an impossible question to answer factually of course, as who knows where this will take us? But I truly hope we get back to social events as that is where my personal stimulation for writing comes from. Sounds on the streets, hearing people chatter, general industrial sounds...and how they are processed by us as individuals. I'd hate to think that venues would struggle to exist due to limitations on numbers through social distancing. The power and importance of human interaction has become so much more obvious in lockdown. The power and beauty of communication through music, and the exhilaration of seeing a live gig and being part of the audience, cannot easily be replaced online. However, I do think for the immediate future we will continue to broadcast via platforms like OBS, where people can see the performance and feel more connected to the artist through chat rooms and Zoom-like interaction. I think there will be more pay-to-view streams and a new opportunity for collectives and more local musicians to perform and gain audiences, rather than the focus being concentrated on a few very high paid individuals. I hope, and I can only hope, things change for the better. I can't imagine a world without live performance and vital local community serving venues.





Danielle Moore is the lead singer with electronic music band Crazy P (aka Crazy Penis). She also DJs live under the Crazy P brand.

Based out of his studio in Digbeth (Birmingham), **Ian Davies** is a freelance photographer specialising in commercial, portrait and marketing and PR. www.iandaviesphoto.com

Shot at **R Manor Recording Studio** (Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham). With thanks to Helen Bentley and Gerry Parchment, and to Lyle Bignon for location management.

