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# How the pursuit of perfection impacts music recording & performance

My name is Denni Wintyr, and I am undertaking an MA in Media Studies at Massey University, researching how pursuit of perfection, by way of production techniques, and performance assistance, affects a listener's perception and enjoyment of music.

I would like to invite you to take part in my research study. This study is based around recordings of a single song, produced in three different ways. These three versions form the basis of the survey questions, seeking to find how the different methods of production affect a person's perception of the music.

The three versions of the same song can be found here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-198041109-965212377/sets/ride-the-nightmare-comparative-production-study>

Please feel free to keep this open in another tab/window, & to listen to the different versions as much as you need, or to refer back to them during the survey. Good headphones or speakers are recommended for listening, but whatever you usually listen to music through is fine. The song is ~3:40 seconds long, so all three should take around 11 minutes to listen to.

The next section of the study covers audience perception of the use of performance assistance, or backing tracks.

My name is Denni Elizabeth Wintyr, and I can be contacted at [DenniWintyr@gmail.com](mailto:DenniWintyr@gmail.com). My Supervisor is Dr Claire Henry, and she can be contacted at [C.Henry@massey.ac.nz](mailto:C.Henry@massey.ac.nz). Participants are invited to contact the researcher and/or supervisor if they have any questions about the project.

**LOW RISK NOTIFICATION**  
This project has been evaluated by peer review and judged to be low risk. Consequently, it has not been reviewed by one of the University's Human Ethics Committees. The researcher named above is responsible for the ethical conduct of this research.

If you have any concerns about the conduct of this research that you wish to raise with someone other than the researcher(s), please contact Prof Craig Johnson, Director, Research Ethics, telephone 06 356 9099 x 85271, email [humanethics@massey.ac.nz](mailto:humanethics@massey.ac.nz).

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## Demographics

Some basic questions about who you are

Do you usually enjoy listening to rock music?  
 Yes  
 No  
 Sometimes

Do you play a musical instrument, or sing?  
 Yes, Professionally  
 Yes  
 No

Do you have experience recording/producing music?  
 Yes, a lot  
 Yes, a little  
 No

How old are you?  
 Under 27  
 28-45  
 46-67  
 68+

Which gender do you identify as  
 Female  
 Male  
 Other  
 Prefer not to say

Which continental area are you from?  
 Europe (including the UK)  
 Africa  
 Middle East  
 Asia  
 Australasia/Oceania  
 North America  
 South America

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## Comparative production

Please listen to the three different demo recordings of the WintyrQueen song, "Ride the Nightmare", which you can listen to here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-198041109-965212377/sets/ride-the-nightmare-comparative-production-study>

Which of the three versions did you prefer listening to, based on their production/recording style?  
 Version 1  
 Version A  
 Version I

Which version do you think sounded the most authentic?  
 Version 1  
 Version A  
 Version I

Which version do you think sounded the most professional?  
 Version 1  
 Version A  
 Version I

Which version do you think best represents what this band might sound like live?  
 Version 1  
 Version A  
 Version I

Which version's style of recording would you prefer on an album you paid for?  
 Version 1  
 Version A  
 Version I

Which version's style of recording would you expect to appear on an album you paid for?  
 Version 1  
 Version A  
 Version I

Does any element of the music seem more pronounced in one version over another?  
 Version 1, Vocals  
 Version A, Vocals  
 Version I, Vocals  
 Version 1, Guitar  
 Version A, Guitar  
 Version I, Guitar  
 Version 1, Bass  
 Version A, Bass  
 Version I, Bass  
 Version 1, Drums  
 Version A, Drums  
 Version I, Drums  
 Nothing was more pronounced in any version over another

Does any version sound more modern to you than another, & if so, do you think that it sounds better, or worse?  
 Version 1, worse  
 Version A, worse  
 Version I worse  
 Version 1, better  
 Version A, better  
 Version I, better  
 No version sounded more modern than any other

Does any version sound more digital to you than another, & if so, do you think that it sounds better, or worse?  
 Version 1, worse  
 Version A, worse  
 Version I, worse  
 Version 1, better  
 Version A, better  
 Version I, better  
 No version sounded more digital than any other

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## Performance Assistance

Here we will look at how the use of pre-recorded tracks affects your perception of the music being listened to.

A band is performing live (Vocals, Guitar, Bass, Drums). They have pre-recorded tracks playing with them with extra parts (like keyboards, background vocals, strings etc.)  
 I would prefer to hear just the live band, without the extra tracks  
 I would prefer to hear just the live band, but would not mind the extra tracks  
 I would prefer to hear the band playing like this, with the extra tracks  
 I would prefer to hear the band playing like this, but would not mind just hearing the band live

A band is performing live (Vocals, Guitar, Bass, Drums). They have pre-recorded tracks playing to replace parts too difficult for them to play live (difficult vocals, guitar solos, bass chords)  
 I would prefer to hear just the live band, even if they can't play as well as on a recording  
 I would prefer to hear the band play with the help of pre-recorded parts  
 I would object to the pre-recorded tracks if they were presented as being a live performance  
 I would not object to the pre-recorded tracks if they were presented as a live performance

An online video shows a musician or band playing a song. Their audio is from a pre-recorded track (miming the performance)  
 I would like this, as long as it is clear that it is not live (like a music video)  
 I would like this, even if it is presented as a live performance, if the miming matches the audio  
 I would like this, even if the miming didn't match the audio  
 I would like this, even if tricks, such as speeding up footage, have been used to make the video match the ...  
 I would like this, even if it was presented as a live performance & tricks, such as speeding up footage, had ...  
 I would not like this, even if it is clear that it is not live (like a music video)  
 I would not like this, if it is presented as a live performance, even if the miming matches the audio  
 I would not like this if the miming didn't match the audio  
 I would not like this if tricks, such as speeding up footage, had been used to make the video match the aud...  
 I would not like this, if it was presented as a live performance, & tricks, such as speeding up footage, had b...

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## Final thoughts

Description (optional)

If you have anything else that you would like to contribute before completing this survey, please enter them here, & thank you for participating ^\_^

Long-answer text