

SØRAV MUSIC ACADEMY

LEVEL 3 · MASTERING QC WORKSHEETS

Use these checklists while preparing and verifying an approved mix. Follow the delivery brief for required formats and measurements.

What Mastering Is—and Is Not

Goal: Understand mastering as the final quality-control and delivery stage for an already-mixed stereo or approved stem deliverable.

Practical task

In Logic Pro, import the approved stereo mix into a dedicated mastering project. Confirm the file, start/end points and sample rate. Listen once without processing, write three observations, then compare a level-matched reference. Do not add a limiter until you know what problem you are solving.

Listening review

Listen to the whole song at normal level, then quieter. Write whether the vocal, bass, transients and stereo image feel coherent. Identify problems that would be better fixed in the mix.

Record observations

Source/version verified _____

Delivery brief checked _____

Listening observations _____

Measurements and meter used

Decision and reason _____

Exported file auditioned _____

■ Task completed ■ Full file checked ■ Notes saved

Preparing a Mix for Mastering

Goal: Deliver a clean, clearly identified mix with appropriate headroom and no avoidable technical problems.

Practical task

Export the approved Logic Pro mix to a clearly named, uncompressed PCM file at the agreed project/delivery format. Re-import the export into a blank session and listen from beginning to end. Verify the first transient, ending tail, stereo channels and file metadata.

Listening review

Compare the export with the session playback at matched level. Listen especially to the first second, transitions, final phrase and effect tail.

Record observations

Source/version verified _____

Delivery brief checked _____

Listening observations _____

Measurements and meter used

Decision and reason _____

Exported file auditioned _____

■ Task completed ■ Full file checked ■ Notes saved

Tonal Balance and Reference Listening

Goal: Make broad tonal decisions using level-matched references and the whole song rather than isolated meter targets.

Practical task

In Logic Pro, place a reference track on a separate channel that bypasses your processing chain. Level-match it carefully. Compare short, representative sections and note only two or three differences before making a small broad EQ test.

Listening review

Switch between your mix and reference at matched perceived loudness. Ask whether the change improves the song rather than making it merely more similar to the reference.

Record observations

Source/version verified _____

Delivery brief checked _____

Listening observations _____

Measurements and meter used

Decision and reason _____

Exported file auditioned _____

■ Task completed ■ Full file checked ■ Notes saved

Dynamics, Compression and Limiting

Goal: Understand how mastering dynamics processing changes overall movement, peaks and loudness—and when not to use it.

Practical task

Use a copy of the approved mix in Logic Pro. Add a compressor with gentle settings, then a limiter only if needed. Toggle the chain and match output loudness. Listen to transients, vocal expression, cymbals and low end. Remove processing that creates audible damage.

Listening review

Compare the unprocessed and processed versions at matched loudness. Listen for changes in punch, groove, distortion, ambience and emotional impact—not just meter movement.

Record observations

Source/version verified _____

Delivery brief checked _____

Listening observations _____

Measurements and meter used

Decision and reason _____

Exported file auditioned _____

■ Task completed ■ Full file checked ■ Notes saved

Peak, RMS and LUFS

Goal: Distinguish sample peak, true peak, RMS and integrated loudness, and use each measurement for the right question.

Practical task

In Logic Pro, use available loudness/level meters or a trusted meter plugin to observe sample peak and loudness during playback. If your tool offers true-peak measurement, note it separately. Measure the exported file, not only the session bus.

Listening review

Compare two sections with different density. Observe how peak and integrated loudness tell different stories. Do not change processing solely to make the numbers match a reference.

Record observations

Source/version verified _____

Delivery brief checked _____

Listening observations _____

Measurements and meter used

Decision and reason _____

Exported file auditioned _____

■ Task completed ■ Full file checked ■ Notes saved

True Peak, Clipping and Codec Safety

Goal: Understand inter-sample peaks, clipping risks and why lossy encoding should be checked after conversion.

Practical task

Export a short test from Logic Pro, then create the required delivery format. If a lossy format is part of the delivery, audition the encoded file and use true-peak metering if available. Keep the original high-quality master file.

Listening review

Listen to a transient-heavy passage and cymbals before and after encoding. Compare at matched loudness and note any real audible differences; do not assume every encode will sound damaged.

Record observations

Source/version verified _____

Delivery brief checked _____

Listening observations _____

Measurements and meter used

Decision and reason _____

Exported file auditioned _____

■ Task completed ■ Full file checked ■ Notes saved

Stereo and Mono Compatibility

Goal: Check stereo image, correlation and low-frequency stability without widening the mix just for effect.

Practical task

In Logic Pro, listen to the stereo mix and then use a mono check or utility to sum to mono. If available, observe a correlation meter. Compare before and after any widening process and check the centre vocal, kick and bass.

Listening review

Listen to the chorus in stereo and mono. Identify elements that become quieter, hollow or hard to locate. Try reducing or removing the process causing the issue.

Record observations

Source/version verified _____

Delivery brief checked _____

Listening observations _____

Measurements and meter used

Decision and reason _____

Exported file auditioned _____

■ Task completed ■ Full file checked ■ Notes saved

Delivery Formats and Quality Control

Goal: Prepare the correct files, verify technical settings, and perform a final quality-control pass before delivery.

Practical task

Create a delivery folder from a Logic Pro project. Export the required lossless master and any requested derivatives, inspect file settings, re-import the master and listen end-to-end. Make a short manifest listing each file and purpose.

Listening review

Listen to the first and last seconds, quiet sections, transitions and loudest section. Compare the exported file with the session at matched level.

Record observations

Source/version verified _____

Delivery brief checked _____

Listening observations _____

Measurements and meter used

Decision and reason _____

Exported file auditioned _____

■ Task completed ■ Full file checked ■ Notes saved