

REFLECTIVE PAPER – DAVID MINGUILLÓN

d. Results

- how the project did and did not align with expectations.

My C.E. was divided in two aspects:

Compositions / Concert organization.

Regarding the creative aspect of my C.E., I have to say that I was too enthusiastic about the number of compositions I would be able to finish this year.

At the beginning of the year I had in mind to compose 4 new songs and arrange 4 jazz standards into a flamenco vibe.

Because I was immersed in too many projects and the organization of the concert took me so much time, I decided to focus on two compositions, Fandangos and Alegrías.

The main goal of these two compositions was to add flamenco dance and voice and this part went really well.

I had some issues, for example finding the right people and setting up rehearsals. The dancer came all the way from Madrid and we could only rehearse the same day of the concert.

I would have liked to spend more time researching about these flamenco styles, I was a bit unorganized with the time I spent in this area; therefore I used mainly the rhythm of the styles in my compositions and adapted modern harmonies and lyrics to it.

About the concert organization, I realized it is very tough work and it takes many hours. I have organized concerts before but it's the first time I set up a charity concert and with so many musicians involved.

This activity also took many hours from practicing my instrument and affected my concentration.

It would have been great to have sold out the tickets and to have been able to donate more money to the organization ASPANION but at least we counted on the support of Berklee to rent the space and we could donate

a bit.

c. Plan of Action / Process

- Where the project met expectations and where it needs to be revised during execution.

I'm very satisfied about how the projects turned out and I have learnt a lot through this concert. Here are some aspects I found interesting about the experience:

- Ask for help.
It's impossible to do everything by ourselves, we need other people to help in the areas we are not so good at.
- Be realistic.
We as artists tend to dream a lot and when it comes to organizing an event it can be very disappointing. Be realistic about how many people you can bring to the venue.
- Focus.
It's really important to focus on one subject for a while, in order to interiorize and learn the material in depth. I have been doing many different things at the same time and this, not only produces stress, but is also not productive.
If I could start again I would just choose only one aspect, for example RESEARCH in flamenco and leave the compositions and the event for another time.

d. Next Steps:

- If the project were to continue, what would the next phase entail? How will this project be used going forward?

For me the next step would be ideally to focus on research in flamenco for one year and not to spend so much time organizing concerts.

Since I get my main income from performances and I organize most of my concerts, I have to deal with both aspects.

The next steps of this project are:

- Editing the videos of the concert.
- Making a dossier with the pictures of the concert that I'll send to promoters together with the video, in order to get more gigs with my band.
- Continuing researching and composing in flamenco vibe, adding voice and dance.
- Organizing another charity concert next year of the same characteristics and on the same month so I can create a festival slowly with the concept of helping others.

e. Contribution to the Discipline or Profession

- Including, but not limited to benefits to others in the field.

I think it could create awareness to other musicians to do more events to help the community and not only for self interest. Also both things can go together, for me this concert was a try-out for new compositions, and also a way to have new material to promote my band, pictures, audio and video and at the same time we help ASPANION.

About the music itself I want to show to flamenco players that everything is possible, we don't have to play only in the traditional way to be considered a flamenco guitarist or play with an electric guitar to be a good improviser.

The message I would like to show with my music is that no matter with style of music you do, the most important issue is to communicate and touch people through music.

I struggle sometimes with finding a name for my style of playing or the music I write since I like so many things, but I feel I don't master any of them. I have decided that I don't have to feel bad about this, and see it as an advantage, and that I should continue studying every day and creating my own style as a mix of all the musical languages I love.

I feel I contribute to the discipline by showing a modern way to approach flamenco music and create a new guitar language for this.

f. Impact on Student Completing the Work.

I'm incredibly happy to have had the opportunity of being part of the Berklee "family". I feel I have grown a lot as a musician and I'm very grateful with the experience and knowledge I have acquired this year.

For me, it has being a watershed and "I'll never forget all that Berklee has given me. Thanks to this project I had the opportunity to play with some of the faculty members and I know I'll continue to be involved in projects with them.

By completing this work I feel fulfilled, not only by finishing some of my new compositions but also by having the opportunity of helping others through music.

g. Bibliography or works Cited.

Leiva, David. *Método de Cante y Baile Flamenco y su acompañamiento (voz y guitarra)*, Vol. 2 y 3. Madrid: Nueva Carisch España, 2009.