Audio
Appendix 5

Rules of thumb for making a good sound recording

Keep the following in mind:

- Is it a sound recording only or is it audio with video?

- Avoid data compression (so don't make an .mp3 file but a .wav)

- For output: choose a high volume

- Don't record the room or the acoustics of the hall, but the instrument(s) and/or voice(s)

- If solo: the microphone should not be too far away

- If an ensemble, let the microphone be the ear that can hear everything

- Always make a test recording and listen back: check if you can hear all musicians involved in balance and all registers of instruments in balance

- When using a zoom recorder, test different positions: the position is crucial

- Too close: various registers of an instrument will not be in balance and dynamics will peak

- With zoom recorders, it is better to keep a certain distance. Always test the loudest passages in the music and check if the recorder can handle those peaks

- For processing/editing sound only, Logic is good software

- If combined with video, record the sound separately. Most videocams have low quality inputs for sound

- When working with video, software like iMovie, Final Cut or Adobe are all good for processing sound