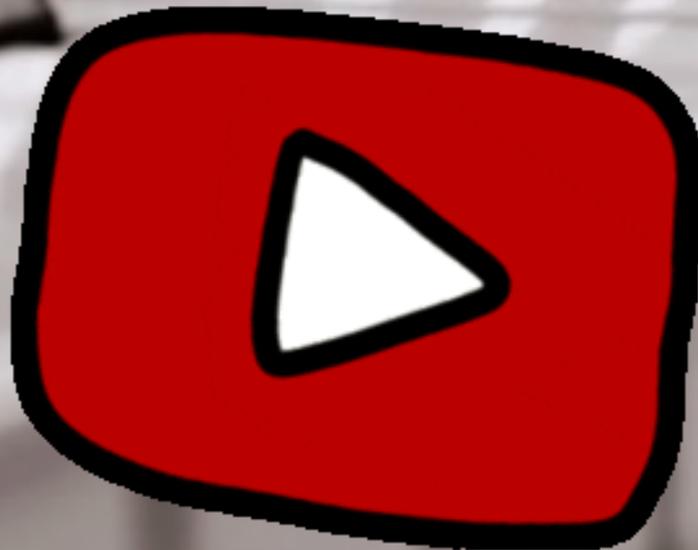


# SELF-GUIDED YOUTUBE PIANO LESSONS: A CASE STUDY

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Presentation  
Handout



# INTRODUCTION



- Frameworks and models for online communities
- Online communities are valid spaces
- YouTube—dissemination and stability
- User-generated content (UGC)—important role
- “[YouTube] creates spaces for engagement and community-formation. Uploading [YouTube videos] serves as a way for [online] groups to talk among themselves, and to the broader community, using the same media texts that bring them together. The discussions that take place there spill over into other sites of everyday culture, meaning, identity, and practice” (Burgess & Green, 2009, p. 80).

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## PREVIOUS RESEARCH TELLS US...

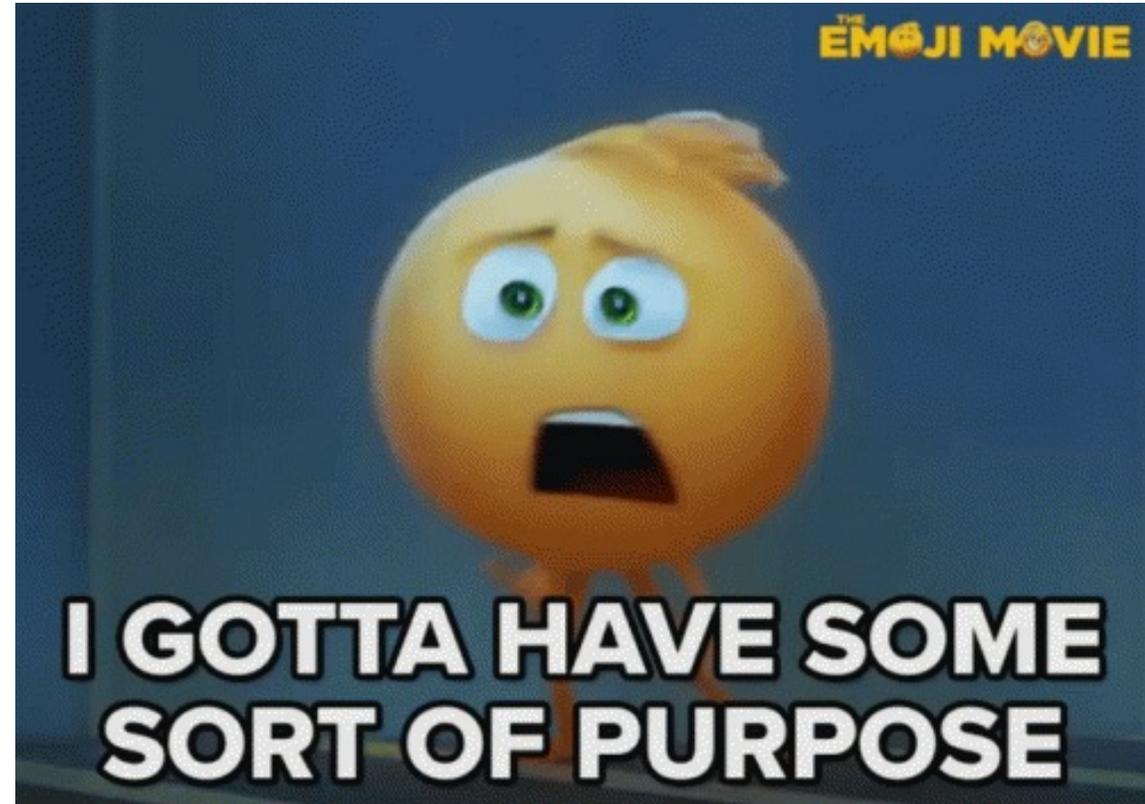
- Online/digital learning and instruction is a real thing (Waldron, 2013).
- YouTube can be a valuable resource and asset for learning and instruction (Cayari, 2018; Waldron, 2011).
- Self-guided online instruction utilizing UGC poses its own unique pros and cons (Kruse & Veblen, 2012; Luciana, 2017; Whitaker et al, 2014).
- The research is emerging as the technology is emerging and stabilizing (Burgess & Green, 2009).



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## NEED FOR THE STUDY/PURPOSE

- Purpose—4 Ms
  - Disposition qualities
  - Self-reflected Pros/Cons
  - Mental Realizations
  - Dove in to see what I could find



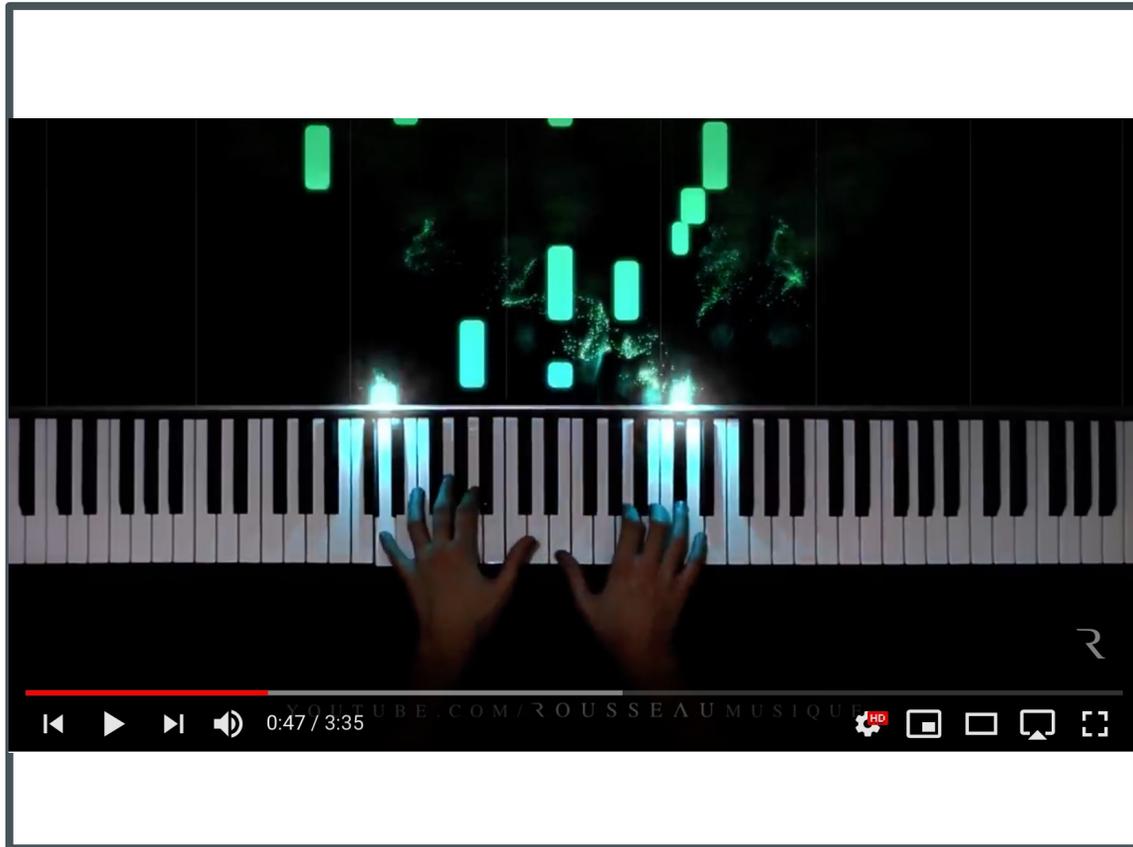
# METHODOLOGY



- Case Study
- Participant–Michael
  - Male, college freshman, pre-med major, no piano experience, no musical training past elementary school (How I met Michael.)
- Data Collection
  - 3 semi-structured interviews—emergent code
    - 1, 2, and 3 months after beginning online lessons during a semester
  - Practice Log
  - YouTube playlist
  - Playing/Practice videos

# FINDINGS

## MATERIALS AND METHODS



- Materials
  - Digital piano, pedal, phone, laptop
  - YouTube, sheet music
- Method of Learning and Practice
  - Repetition
- Evaluation
  - Focused listening

# FINDINGS—MENTALITY

- Pros
  - Individual Ownership—“I can learn on my own time and pace without having to go to [an] instructor.”
  - Cost—“I don't have to pay money to watch YouTube.”
  - Multiple Learning Modes—“...The fact that I can look at it, look at someone play, understand where their finger placements [are] instead of, you know, relying on the sheet music to teach me everything.... I can get [the] visual aspect of it, of someone playing. So that way it's a faster learning process for me than if I were to learn how to read music and solely learn a piece of music [from the sheet music] if there [were] no recordings.”
  - Holistic Music Education—Learning theory on YouTube as well. This informs his piano playing. “I had to learn the basics, like the finger numbers online.” “When I learned the notes in the D-flat scale, it made playing the piece so much easier.”
  - Control over Pacing—“I can go in any order I want, even if it's not the right order.”
- Cons—Lack of guidance, support, and motivation
  - “I would want someone to be there to tell me when I'm doing wrong..... Cause the only thing I have is to rely on [is]... me recording myself and listening to it.”
  - “I can go in any order I want.” Missing a scaffolding to guide large-scale learning.

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## FINDINGS—MOTIVATION/DISPOSITION

- Interview 1—Excited/Practiced Frequently
  - “I practice like an **hour or two every day.**”
  - I am **so pumped** to...be able to do something I’ve always wanted to.”

## FINDINGS—MOTIVATION/DISPOSITION

- Interview 2—Awareness of Musical Deficiencies/Motivation
  - “I think that's also another thing [I'm] just realizing two months in. I still have a lot of easy lower grade zero stuff to learn.... **I'm going too fast** to perfect and know [those] things before I move on.”
  - “I don't know just basic stuff. So, **I need to go back** and actually take more time and study...the basics again.”
  - While watching a YouTube video. “I won't understand what they're talking about. And then I realized maybe **I should have spent more time on [basics]**.... They'll talk about the chord progression in the song, and I [w]on't know what that chord is or what that progression means. And it's supposed to be a beginner level...song. So maybe I should [go back and] understand that.”
  - “**There's a feeling of frustration**...[when] I don't know what I'm doing or I need someone to tell me what I'm doing.... [I] just kind of lose motivation for that moment.... The fact that **I have to go back** and fix [things] that were missing, uh, fix what's wrong in my learning. But at the same time I realize...this was just a new experience that I can go back, learn, flesh out everything that's wrong....”
  - “It still is fun to me. **I'm still motivated**. I wish I had more time to do it.”
  - “The fact that I'm doing this on my own, I think I'm learning a lot more because I'm learning [what] I don't know, what I'm doing wrong, and **critically thinking about my learning** rather than someone else telling me about it.”

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## FINDINGS—MOTIVATION/DISPOSITION

- Interview 3—More Technically Driven/Self-Reflective
  - I think [this] third month, I'm going to **shift my focus** to learning the basics...like the keys, scales, basic terms and stuff...like 'here's this whole step.' [I want to] get to the point where I...**connect [all the theory skills] to the pieces** I'm learning to play.”
  - “If you are **just told the answer, you're not going to try to discover it.** But since I on my own, I have to think about it. I [have] to go through every single step of **solving this problem.**”
  - “I have to use every single bit of knowledge I know previously or if something comes up and I don't know it, then I have to look for it. So it's just a sense of **trying to get to the end result.**”

# DISCUSSION/ CONCLUSION



- Importance of finding quality digital materials
- Highly motivated
- Extreme self-reflection
- Spiral process of learning
- Blend of individual and formal instruction

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“Music itself is its own world....its own everything. To...people that are outside the music world, [they] don't understand that there's a lot to do.... It's nowhere near as easy as people make it look.”

–Michael

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## THANK YOU. QUESTIONS?

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