

ABSTRACT

This dissertation explores the intentional fusion of trumpet performance within country, western, and folk music idioms, addressing the instrument's underutilization as a featured voice in popular genres. While trumpet appears prominently in funk, reggae, ska, and R&B, it typically serves textural rather than soloistic functions in these contexts. This project demonstrates how the trumpet can transcend its traditional role through strategic genre fusion and performance approaches informed by conservatory training.

The research methodology combines practical songwriting techniques with studio recording processes to create four original compositions that integrate trumpet as a central soloistic voice. Four distinct compositional approaches are examined: low end-driven songwriting ("36"), chord change-driven composition ("Hymn for Jim"), rhythmic-driven composition ("SPCY JNY"), and melody-driven songwriting ("10 Paces"). Each piece represents a different stylistic synthesis—Appalachian folk with Baroque influences, country bar ballad with jazz harmonies, honky-tonk with Louisiana zydeco, and spaghetti western with mariachi elements.

The project documents comprehensive recording processes in a Nashville studio and technical analysis of how different trumpet family members (piccolo trumpet, flugelhorn, cornet) serve specific timbral requirements within each genre. The trumpet's vocal-like phrasing capabilities and extensive range (E3~Bb6) make it naturally suited for featured roles in country and folk music, with fusion strategies that respect both source genres while creating new aesthetic possibilities. Historical precedents from the Beatles' "Penny Lane" to Johnny Cash's "Ring of Fire" provide contextual framework for

contemporary applications, while technically informed approaches detail methods for achieving stylistic authenticity and maintaining classical performance standards.

This work provides practical frameworks for trumpet players and other instrumentalists seeking to expand their creative reach into popular genres through songwriting and arranging. The documented processes offer replicable methodologies for genre fusion while maintaining high performance standards. The project ultimately argues for trumpet's untapped potential in popular music contexts and provides concrete examples for future genre collaboration initiatives.