

Cambridge Elements

Elements in Twenty-First Century Music Practice

edited by

Simon Zagorski-Thomas

London College of Music, University of West London

REPETITION AND PERFORMANCE IN THE RECORDING STUDIO

Rod Davies

Monash University



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-46787-2 — Repetition and Performance in the Recording Studio
Rod Davies
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)



Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge & Assessment

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009467872

DOI: 10.1017/9781009253789

© Rod Davies 2024

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions
of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published 2024

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-009-46787-2 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-25379-6 Paperback
ISSN 2633-4585 (online)
ISSN 2633-4577 (print)

Additional resources for this publication at www.cambridge.org/Davies

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
remain, accurate or appropriate

Repetition and Performance in the Recording Studio

Elements in Twenty-First Century Music Practice

DOI: 10.1017/9781009253789
First published online: February 2024

Rod Davies
Monash University

Author for correspondence: Rod Davies, rod.davies@monash.edu

Abstract: The recording studio is a performance setting in which popular music performers often produce multiple takes, using particular strategies to vary outcomes in search of the 'perfect take'. However, repetition offers the opportunity to discover the unexplored liminality between what we expect to hear and what is performed. Observing multiple takes of one's own recorded performance within the temporal limits of a vocal recording session yields qualitative data to create an ethnography of both the process and the *work* itself. Presenting artefacts from a recording session in conjunction with an autoethnographic text provides a demonstration of how evolving external cues and internal cognitive scripts interact with technology and social conventions in the recording studio to impact a popular music musician's performance and, in effect, the creation of a new *work*.

This Element also has a video abstract: www.cambridge.org/Rod_Davies

Keywords: popular music, recording studio production, performance, repetition, autoethnography

© Rod Davies 2024

ISBNs: 9781009467872 (HB), 9781009253796 (PB), 9781009253789 (OC)
ISSNs: 2633-4585 (online), 2633-4577 (print)

Contents

1 Repetition in Performance	1
2 The Recording Studio as a Construction Site	6
3 The Performer as a Reflective Practitioner	13
4 That’s Perfect! Let’s Do It Again	19
5 Organisation Can Make It Worth the Risk	33
6 Seeking Out the Slippery Hills	47
References	51