Name: ..... Due: **Next Class / Friday**

C3 Large Scale Analogue HW 3 – Michael Jackson 'Billie Jean' & SSL Automation

Artist: Michael Jackson (Thriller, 1982, Westlake Audio, Engineer: Bruce Swedien)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zi_XLOBDo_Y

1. In 1982, Bruce Swedien mixed "Billie Jean" on a Solid State Logic SSL 4000 console. Identify the track arrangement in the table below. (3)

Instrument / Track Element	Arrangement & Processing
Kick Drum & Snare Intro	Uncompressed transient capture, wood bass drum cover
Stereo Synthesizer Bass	Doubled Minimoog and Yamaha basslines
Lead Vocal (Michael Jackson)	
String & Horn Accents	

2. What distinctive metallic vocal reverb / slapback effect can be heard on Michael Jackson's vocal hiccup ad-libs at 0'29"? (1)

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3. Bruce Swedien used the "Acusonic Recording Process" synchronizing multiple 24-track tape machines. What technology was used to synchronize tape transports? (2)

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4. Noise gates (e.g. Drawmer DS201, Kepex) were vital in large-scale multitrack tracking. Explain the function of Threshold, Attack, Hold, and Release parameters on a noise gate. (4)

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5. The SSL 4000 console revolutionized mixing with VCA fader automation and the G-Master Bus Compressor. Explain how these two tools enabled cohesive, punchy commercial mixes. (4)

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6. Describe how you would close-mic a kick drum in a modern studio to capture both deep low-end weight and sharp beater attack: (4)

Dual-Microphone Selection (Inside vs Outside) & Polar Patterns (2)
Mic 1 (Inside beater click): Mic 2 (Outside resonant head):
Positioning, Acoustic Porting / Damping & Phase Check (2)

Total:	**/18**