Research > COMPOSING WITH PROCESS: PERSPECTIVES ON GENERATIVE AND SYSTEMS MUSIC

Generative music is a term used to describe music which has been composed using a set of rules or system. This series explores generative approaches (including algorithmic, systems-based, formalised and procedural) to composition and performance primarily in the context of experimental technologies and music practices of the latter part of the twentieth century and examines the use of determinacy and indeterminacy in music and how these relate to issues around control, automation and artistic intention.

Each episode of the series is accompanied by an additional programme, entitled 'Exclusives', featuring exclusive or unpublished sound pieces by leading sound artists and composers working in the field.

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Written and edited by Mark Fell and Joe Gilmore. Narrated by Connie Treanor. Exclusives by Goodiepal.

Mark Fell is a Sheffield (UK) based artist and musician. He has performed and exhibited extensively at major international festivals and institutions. In 2000 he was awarded an honorary mention at the prestigious ARS Electronica, and in 2004 was nominated for the Quartz award for research in digital music. He also completed a major commission for Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, Vienna which premiered at Youniverse, International Biennal of Contemporary Arts, Sevilla. www.markfell.com

Joe Gilmore is an artist and graphic designer based in Leeds (UK). His work has been exhibited at various digital art festivals and galleries. His recorded works have been published internationally on several record labels including: 12k/Line (New York), Entr'acte (London), Cut (Zürich), Fällt (Belfast) and Leonardo Music Journal (San Francisco). Joe is currently a part-time lecturer in the department of Graphic Design at Leeds College of Art & Design. He is also a founder of rand()%, an Internet radio station which streamed generative music. joe.qubik.com

COMPOSING WITH PROCESS: PERSPECTIVES ON GENERATIVE AND SYSTEMS MUSIC #7.2
Exclusives

Each episode of this series is followed by a special accompaniment programme of exclusive music by some of the leading sound artists and composers working in the field. This show presents two pieces by Goodiepal or Gæoudjiparl van den Dobbelsteen, whose real name is Parl Kristian Bjørn Vester.

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01. Playlist

00:22 Goodiepal, part I (60'04")

Goodiepal in conversation with Jesper Pedersen on the subject of composing with process.

1:04:54 Goodiepal, part II (44'5")

Goodiepal in conversation with Kjartan Ólafsson, creator of the CALMUS software.

Programme note: in the second part of this double exclusive podcast we refer to a folder where you can download the CALMUS programme and that can be obtained by emailing the composer: kjol@simnet.is

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02. Biographies

Goodiepal

Goodiepal or Gæoudjiparl van den Dobbelsteen, whose real name is Parl Kristian Bjørn Vester, is a controversial Danish/Faroese musician/composer wanted by the Danish police authorities for an unsolved theft from the Royal Academy of Music in Aarhus. The eccentric and self-made Goodiepal has influenced the course of modern music through radical excursions into computer technology and media art. He performs and presents his work worldwide and he has delivered guest lectures at about 150 universities around the world. He was employed as a teacher at DIEM (Danish Institute for Electro-acoustic Music) at the Royal Academy of Music in Aarhus, Denmark. Goodiepal declared an intellectual war against what he considers the 'stupidity' in modern computer music and media art, primarily targeted at The Royal Academy of Music following his acrimonious departure from the academy in 2008. (Source: Wikipedia)

Jesper Pedersen

Jesper Pedersen is an experimental composer, performer, improviser and technology dabbler residing in Iceland. He holds an MA with specialization in music technology from Aalborg University in Denmark and teaches composition, sound design, sonology and interactive art at the Iceland Academy of the Arts. He is a member of the experimental composers collective Slátur as well as being a founding member of LornaLAB (Reykjavik Medialab). He recently also became a member of the Reykjavik Sculpture Association.

His works are conceptually based and often use homemade technology alongside visual elements and animated notation in the musical performance. His compositions have been performed by ensembles and musicians such as Katie Buckley, Áshildur Haraldsdóttir, Tinna Þorsteinsdóttir, Frank Aarnink, Duo Harpverk, Fengjastrútur, Skmendanikka, FagVerk, Ordlyd Ensemble, ArtSemble, Bachs Duo, composers collective Slátur and the Iceland Symphony Orchestra. He also works with the new icelandic performance art group KJEP (Katie Buckley, Jesper Pedersen, Páll Ivan frá Eiðum and Elín Anna Þórisdóttir) that is active in the Reykjavik area.

[Goodiepal in a still from the video: 'Goodiepal – A Day in the Mouth, episode 5', 2012]

CALMUS (Calculated Music)

CALMUS (1988-2012) is a computer program that is designed for musical composition for traditional instruments. It is specially constructed for contemporary music and deals with musical problems that occur in this music, providing Artificial Intelligence functions and options to handle them.

Kjartan Ólafsson started developing CALMUS in 1988 – as a part of his doctoral studies at the Sibelius Academy in Finland – and continued as an independent research project for musical composition. Among works composed with CALMUS are pieces for solo instruments, chamber ensembles, electronic music, multimedia works, orchestral works, concerts and music for theatre productions and short films. The viola concert by Kjartan Ólafsson composed with CALMUS received the Icelandic Music Award in 2002 as the best composition of the year. CALMUS music has been performed in Europe and USA and has been released on several CDs. Since 1988 Ólafsson has also given numerous lectures on algorithms and Artificial Intelligence in musical composition.

CALMUS is written in Macintosh Common Lisp with the Common Lisp Object oriented Support, CLOS and runs on all computers in the PowerPC Macintosh series both with system 9 and X (Leopard).

03. Related links

Jesper Pedersen Youtube channel
www.youtube.com/user/jespertralala

Blátt er líka fínt (score)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NWrkZ4vfXs

Blátt er líka fínt (performance)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIiYJcgjfM0

Bottleneck (score)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=li6rJJFfIYM

Bottleneck (performance)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=jBqGtCwKNA0

Electric Light Orchestra
www.youtube.com/watch?v=6p5SVeFCMH4

CALMUS
www.listir.is/calmus/

Kjartan Ólafsson
www.Kjartan.net

Brian Ferneyhough SNAPPIDAGG:
www.flickr.com/photos/32556543@N05/4748256613/in/set-72157609437204597

All links have also been made into a SNAPPIDAGG and that is to be found here
www.flickr.com/photos/32556543@N05/7387033642/in/set-72157609437204597

'Goodiepal – A Day in the Mouth, episode 5' (video)
vimeo.com/44405488

04. Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Goodiepal, Jesper Pedersen, Kjartan Ólafsson.

05. Copyright note