

Translating between expressive forms

Richard Hoadley (music/programming), Jane Turner (choreography), Phil Terry (text)

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This project investigates **translations** between **forms of expression** such as **music**, **dance** and **text**

Familiar 'translations' (or **cross-domain** associations) include

- music and image (film)
- text and image (books)
- text and music (song)
- ...and other synaesthetic couplings

Our project explores some of these
translations and implements **automatic,**
creative versions for **interactive real-time**
performance

Gaggle 2010

- In the following early experiment note particularly the expressiveness of the hand movements
- It's clear that many people *want* to be able to express themselves like this, however *direct* the mapping is between movement and result

Gaggle 2010
relationship of hand movements to audio result

Semaphore early rehearsal 2014

- *Semaphore* is a new music-dance-text piece exploring these translations, requiring extreme collaboration between participants
- Early rehearsals analysed more explicit data acquisition and forms of mapping

Semaphore early rehearsal 2014
more precise data acquisition and mapping

Universities' Week, Natural History Museum, June 2014

- **Universities' Week** provided an opportunity to gauge public interest in our research.
- We encouraged the public to interact with our systems - movement of different joints caused different musical events, including **notation generation** (not visible in these extracts)

Universities' Week, Natural History Museum, June 2014
public engagement

Semaphore

Cambridge, October 2014

- The mappings used for *Semaphore*'s first performance in October were sometimes **precise** (height of joint maps to pitch/**notation**) and sometimes more **general** (more movement maps to more musical events)
- Sometimes, it was gratifyingly difficult to differentiate the dance from the music produced

Semaphore, Cambridge, October 2014

movement/audio - movement/notation - audio/text - text/notation
dancers: Gwen Jones and Ann Pidcock; 'cello: Cheryl Frances-Hoad; clarinet: Kate Romano

Project qualities

Timely

- through newly available and **accessible technologies**

Original

- synchronisation of live generated notation with live action is unique

Flexible

- Highly extensible or customisable

Appropriate

- fits clearly with the festival's theme of **music's relationship with other media**

Potential

- Future inclusion of **images** and **dance notation** (labanotation)
- Use in **therapy**
- Use in **education** (particular interest in 'live coding')

Some comments from *Semaphore* audience members

“I really enjoyed the performance... it was interesting to watch the dancers 'create' the music.”

“I came because of a fondness for dance but ... there is so much to take in here that it was useful to have to have two performances of the piece... Another couple of renditions would have permitted me to take in fully the choreography, the score, the text and the interaction of all the elements.”

“It was beautiful”

“Really engaging and interesting... [the] performance was captivating”

“It was great, and I wish more events had a discussion and then second performance format, that worked well”

“Brilliant!”

Proposal for workshop

- During our event we will encourage the public to interact with the systems, generating music, audio and **notation** which will be performed synchronously by our musicians through various translations. Audience response suggests that a **performance-discussion-performance** sequence works well.
- The event will include an **introductory discussion** with **demonstrations**, followed by an **invitation to audience members** to contribute. The event will conclude with a discussion between project participants, guest specialists and the audience about **future possibilities** including **therapeutic** and **educational** uses. It will be followed by a performance of the extended piece *Quantum Semaphore*.

thank you!

upcoming performances:

Piano Glyphs with Philip Mead: London International Piano Symposium, February 13-15 2015

Quantum Semaphore e-Luminate Festival, Cambridge, February 14-15 2015

Collaborative Cross-domain real-time score generation and performance
Reflective Conservatoire Conference, Guildhall, London, February 26-March 1 2015

Quantum Semaphore *a part of Drawing towards Sound*, University of Greenwich, March 20 2015

Semaphore (original) Mumford Theatre, Cambridge, 1300 April 7 2015

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Enquiries to research@rheadley.net