Music 5

Lecture 6

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Lecture Outline

1. **Announcements**

2. **General Information**

3. **Module 7: New Music (Remix)**

4. **Stage Assignment**

Announcements

- **The following items are DUE before Sunday, [May 17](#) at 11:59 pm:**

  - Module 7 Quiz: AI Part 1 Remix Creativity
  - Module 7 Stage Assignment

- We will spend most of the time during today's live session discussing the Stage assignment

General Information: Assignments

- Week 1: Writing (World Music, Art of Noises) - **5**
- Week 2: Studio (Beautiful Sound) - **5**
- Week 3: Writing (Political Economy, Music of Environment) - **10**
- Week 4: Studio (Sound Walk) - **15**
- Week 5: Stage (Clapping) - **5**
- Week 6: Writing (Glitch and Remix) - **5**
- Week 7: Stage (Soundpainting) - **5**
- Week 8: Stage (Great Learning) - **5**
- Week 9: Studio (Magenta) - **5**
- Week 10: Final Project (Studio or Stage + Writing) - **20**

Module 7: New Music (Remix)

Module 7: Objectives

1. Be able to explain the concept of Remix in terms of its significance in modern culture
2. Know the different types of Remix and explain the difference between Sampling, Mashup, and Algorithmic Remix

Module 7: Live session topics

- Demonstrate technique of mixing tracks in Audacity
- Demonstrate sampling and looping in Pd
- Show examples of music instruments in the browser
- Demonstrate **basic gestures in Soundpainting**
- Perform an **improvisation led by the TA** and a couple more led by students
- Explain how to record a group improvisation in Zoom

Today, we will focus on the items shown in bold above.

Module 7: Important terms

- **Remix**: altering a piece of music in various ways, such as through sampling or mashup

  - **Sampling**: reusing a portion of a sound recording in another recording (Wikipedia). This is a common technique in hip hop music.

  - **Mashup**: blending two or more recorded pieces of music. For example, taking a guitar track from a rock song and adding it to the vocal track of a rap song. There were several audio examples of mashups given on Canvas.

Module 7: Important terms

Example of sampling: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWT9BSDvCz0

Stage Assignment

Module 7: Stage assignment (guidelines)

- **<u>Description:</u>** Complete a group musical performance using home appliances, musical instruments, or any sound-making devices. Your performance may be (1) entirely improvised <u>or</u> (2) composed beforehand. In either case, you must adhere to the following requirements:

  - You performance must be at least **3 minutes in duration**

  - Your performance should have at least **2 sections** (note: a "section" is a unique musical idea, such as a chorus, a verse, or a bridge). Your performance should have **a total of at least 8 unique gestures.**

  - Your performance must have at least **1 conductor** and **1 performer**. That said, you have been assigned to a group of 4 or 5 members, so I expect you to have 1 conductor and 3 or 4 performers. <u>Note</u>: if someone chooses not to participate, the others won't be penalized.

Module 7: Stage assignment (guidelines)

- **Assignment requirements (continued):**

  - To receive full credit on this assignment, **the video of your conductor <u>must</u> be turned on in Zoom** so that I can see the gestures. I would prefer that the videos of the performers also be turned on in Zoom, but that is not a strict requirement for this assignment.

  - Whether you completed your performance during today's live session or recorded it afterwards, you must **submit a document** that details the following items:

    - The name of each person who participated in the performance
    - The role of each participant (i.e. conductor or performer)
    - The gestures that the conductor used
    - The instrument that each performer played

  - **Submit a video recording** if you don't complete your performance during today's live session

Module 7: Stage assignment (the basics)

- **What is soundpainting?**

  - A method of creating music that uses **body gestures**

  - The music is intended to be improvised. However, for this assignment, the music can be composed before the performance takes place.

  - Watch these videos to learn more about the gestures:

    - **Lesson** (starts at 2:40): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJQf0MDsNaA
    - **Performance**: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hp_AxCgtD1M

  - There are 4 types of gestures: **who** (whole group, strings only), **what** (long tone, pointillism), **how** (quiet, loud, fast tempo), and **when** (play immediately, gradually fade in)

Module 7: Stage assignment (instruments)

- **How do we go about choosing instruments?**

  - I recommend that you choose instruments with **different pitch ranges**. For example, you could choose a blender and use a high-speed blend setting as a high-pitched instrument and a low-speed blend setting as a relatively low-pitched instrument. Examples of other household items you could choose include a large bucket used as a bass drum or a pair of silverware or chopsticks used as high-pitched percussion instruments.

  - You could download a **free digital synthesizer** for your smartphone. Here's a cool one for the iPhone or iPad: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/minimoog-model-d-synthesizer/id1339418001

  - You could try using **PixelSynth** in your internet browser (note that only one person is able to share their computer audio at a time using Zoom): https://ojack.github.io/PIXELSYNTH/

Module 7: Stage assignment (inspiration)

- **How do we go about coming up with a musical idea?**

    - Choose gestures you feel comfortable performing, then play around with different gesture combinations until you find an arrangement you like

    - **You will not be graded on the artistic merit of your performance**. In other words, a simple performance is acceptable for this assignment.

    - If you're struggling to come up with ideas, please reach out to me

Module 7: Stage assignment (Zoom)

- **A couple comments about the time delay in Zoom:**

  - There will likely be some time delay doing this assignment over Zoom. However, it shouldn't have too adverse of an effect on your soundpainting performance.

  - The delay would be more of a concern if the performers all needed to follow the same tempo. However, in soundpainting, the performers can follow different tempos or play long tones with unspecified tempos.

Module 7: Stage assignment (examples)

- **Let's demonstrate a few examples**

    - **Who**: whole group
    - **What**: long tone
    - **When**: immediately
    - **How**: quieter
    - **What**: off
    - **Who**: whole group
    - **What**: long tone
    - **When**: immediately
    - **How**: louder
    - **What**: off

- Note that there are 6 unique gestures in the performance above

Module 7: Stage assignment (groups)

- **Now let's go into breakout rooms. This is an opportunity to:**

    - Discuss your performance ideas as a group
    - Assign roles to each group member
    - Rehearse your performance
    - Complete your entire performance with the TA present
    - Make arrangements to meet later if you plan to submit a recording of your performance

Questions