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Porto International Conference on
Musical Gesture as Creative Interface

Porto, Portugal, March 17–19, 2016

PROGRAM

and

ABSTRACTS

2016 Porto International Conference on *Musical Gesture as Creative Interface*

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Contents

6		SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE
7		PROGRAM
19		WORKSHOPS BRIEF DESCRIPTION
20		KEYNOTE ADDRESS ABSTRACTS
28		ABSTRACTS
Thursday, March 17th		
29	S1	CONTROLLING AND NAVIGATING MUSICAL GESTURES
31	S2	MUSICAL GESTURE BEYOND NOTATION
33	S3	MUSICAL GESTURE IN CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE
39	S4	GESTURE RECOGNITION IN PERFORMANCE & COMPOSITION
Friday, March 18th		
44	S5	AGENCY, IDENTITY AND METHODOLOGIES OF GESTURE
48	S6	SPATIALIZATION AND MAPPING OF MUSICAL GESTURE
53	S7	GESTURE IN DIFFERENCE AND THERAPY
58	S8	AUDIENCE, DIGITAL INSTRUMENTS, AND MOCAP
64	S9	TEACHING MUSICAL GESTURE AND DANCE
68	S10	GESTURE, EMOTION, AND EXPRESSION IN MUSICAL STRUCTURE
Saturday, March 19th		
74	S11	ERGONOMICS THE ECOLOGY OF MUSICAL GESTURE
79	S12	GESTURE IN CONTEMPORARY MUSIC
83	S13	GESTURE IN OPERA AND THE MUSICAL THEATRE
88	S14	CONCEPTUALIZATION & INTENTIONALITY OF GESTURE
92	S15	GESTURE AND INTERFACES FOR MUSICAL EXPRESSION
95	S16	GESTURE ELECTRONICS AND METAPRAXIS IN MUSIC
Information		
98	R1 and R2:	LUNCH-TIME RECITALS
99		ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
100		INDEX OF NAMES
101		MAPS Campus/Rooms – Universidade Católica Portuguesa

S15 GESTURE AND INTERFACES FOR MUSICAL EXPRESSION

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Conceiving Involuntary Movements as Musical Performance Tools

ABSTRACT

Gestures can have a role in musical communication and creation, as the listener processes their musical meaning and performers are often characterized and distinguished by their use. In this paper we describe the conceptualization and development of tools for controlling the musical discourse and sound effects of a saxophone via the involuntary gestures of its performer in real time. The

performance framework is based on MYO armband used as MIDI/OSC controller. As a wearable device, this kind of devices allows to catalog and distinguish between voluntary and involuntary movements in the performative environment. The performative analysis was focused on involuntary movements through the integration of spontaneous and biological motion mapping information as sound components in live performance. The scope of this work suggested that focus was to be made on a specific instrument so the saxophone was chosen. Gestures were categorized within an iterative process with the performer, although a strategy to figure out main gestures of an instruments performance was first defined. Gestures seem to act as metaphors, which can be associated with endless things and originate multiple meanings. As periods of research activity produce findings and artifacts that can then be mobilized in episodes of musical practice, we address several dimensions of the gestural performance activity in the music domain. It is suggested a framework of relations between types of gestures, which can both serve as a model for analysis, as well provide composers and performers with pathways and strategies under these conditions.

KEYWORDS: computer mediated interaction; electroacoustic music; performance aesthetics; gesture; motion tracking;

International D'Addario Woodwinds and Selmer Paris artist, **Henrique Portovedo** has found its' place in contemporary music by working with composers such as Phil Niblock, Michael Edwards, Chiel Meijering, Paulo Ferreira Lopes, Sara Carvalho, Hugo Correia, Rolf Gehlhaar, among others, having more than 30 works for saxophone dedicated to him. Co-founder of QuadQuartet and Artistic Director of Aveiro SaxFest, he is the creative director and producer of Sound of Shadows. He recorded for several labels including Naxos and RRoots Productions. Was awarded with several Trinity Music Awards in London, Prémio Jovens Criadores 2012 by the Portuguese Institute of Art and Ideas and received the Award by the Portuguese National Centre of Culture in 2014. He works at CITAR, Oporto.

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