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ACS Sponsored Midi-Network
Final Report
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The inspiration for this project came shortly after I became the principal administrator for the S.U. midi-lab. This lab, a relatively new addition at S.U., was created without a dedicated operational budget and so was getting to the state where upgrades were becoming a necessity. Like many of our sister ACS institutions, our student body's expectations are high and I began to grapple with issue of how to improve our lab's capabilities with limited resources. Foremost among the areas I perceived where improvements could be made in our lab was in sampling and software synthesis. I felt that we needed to offer our student composer's midi based technology that would render convincing and realistic performances of their works. The initial goal of the project thus centered upon this basic problem and offered a solution through the creation and sharing of sound files for sampling purposes.

The ACS technology grant aided me in the creation of the ACS Midi-Network, a weblog dedicated to the creation and sharing of "open source" (non-copyright protected) sound samples. To that end, the website stores such samples and shares information regarding their use. Preparation for the creation of the weblog had requirements also aided by the grant. Principal among these have

been my attendance to two workshops and the purchasing of sampling software and hardware now housed at Southwestern University's midi-lab.

The pedagogical ramifications of the project have been wholly positive. I have gained both perspective and a modicum of technical facility in the area sampling. The perspective lies in a greater appreciation for the level of time that is required in the production of samples, both in the initial recording phase and the steps that follow as you turn those samples into a musical instrument as well as the reasons for the expense and copyright protections of such material. The launching of the weblog will allow our ACS institutions and the cyberspace musical community at large to jointly enhance our capacities to make electronic music through collaboration and the free sharing of information. The website address is:

<http://ssfa.southwestern.edu/midinet/>

Now that the site has been launched I will monitor discussion of related material as well as solicit open source files and samples to be housed on our server and made available for downloading by all.

I would to thank ACS for making this possible and also Pat Ramsey (ITS at SU) for help in setting up the site.