

October 3, 2003

## **The ACS Midi Network Music Technology Proposal for Summer 2004**

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### *1. Background: Rationale for Overall Project*

The project will help to engender a spirit of communication and sharing amongst our institutions in the area of midi based technologies. The project will aim to enhance the capabilities of ACS member midi labs and studios through the exchange of information and sampled sound libraries in the public domain. The project addresses the following issue.

Composers (especially student composers) have have continually faced the problem of not easily being able to hear fully orchestrated versions of their works. The past four decades having witnessed solutions to this basic problem with an ever increasing degree of success and sophistication, yet issues of access and currency remain. The solutions, tied to midi and recording technologies, continue to drop in cost while gaining in quality. Music education accreditation agencies worldwide have mandated that these technologies be incorporated into curriculums. Moreover, music educators have a moral imperative to do so. Students at Southwestern University and other ACS institutions must have easy and regular access to these technologies in order to fully prepare themselves as 21st century musicians.

The project will be a resource for assistance with lab/studio maintenance and utilization. ACS member institutions for the most part have made and continue to make efforts to include midi and recording technologies in their curriculums. Most have some type of music technology labs already in place. Supporting a lab properly however, requires fostering in both financial and intellectual capacities. Maintaining and utilizing our labs to their fullest extent is problematic because of budgetary concerns as well as continuing education for lab administrators. Both of these issues could be addressed through increased communication between amongst music technology colleagues.

### *2. Description: Part of the Project To Be Done Under ACS Funding*

#### **The Proposal**

The proposed project involves the creation of a web portal under the auspices of ACS that will serve as a storage, distribution and information center for new sampled sound libraries and those in the public domain. The portal will focus on platforms presently used by ACS member institutions in their music labs and in faculty studios. The creation of this website will help to facilitate communication and sharing amongst our institutions and further enable our student and faculty musicians to become more fully engaged in the use of sampled sound midi based

technology. The project further proposes to conduct a survey regarding the current status and future plans of member institution's labs and studios. Faculty members and students most directly involved with the labs/studios will be encouraged to participate in the 2004 summer workshop where strategies regarding the needs of each institution can be addressed in an open discussion format. Another component of the workshop would address current trends in software synthesizers and sampling.

### *3. Timeline: Deliverables/Milestones for ACS Funded Part of Project*

Surveys regarding the current status of labs and studios sent out January 15, 2004.

Website launched and running by June 15, 2004.

Workshop demonstrations and discussions occur in July 2004.

Follow up Survey sent out September 15, 2004.

### *4. Technology: Technical Requirements for the Project*

Southwestern University has most of the required technology for the project with the exception of the following current software synthesizer and sampling programs in both Mac and Windows platforms (Sample Tank and Giga Studio respectively).

### *5. Other Support: Institutional and/or Outside Support for Project*

Support sought the project will come mainly from the outside. Equipment and software manufacturers will be relied on for technical help. ACS Technology Center help will be sought for the construction of the Website.

### *6. Learning Outcomes: How the Project Will Enhance Teaching/Learning?*

The project will impact teaching and learning in substantive and valuable ways. Familiarity with and increased access to midi and recording technologies are essential for musicians living in our age. Ours students/faculty will be able to better and more easily create computer generated representations of their works. They will feel a greater sense of comfort, confidence and satisfaction when working in their technology environments.

### *7. Curriculum: How the Project Will Be Integrated into the Curriculum?*

Information gleaned from the project will be integrated into the curriculums of music technology, composition and theory courses. The mechanisms for this are already in place and anticipate and welcome innovation.

### *8. Assessment: How the Project Will Be Evaluated?*

The project will be evaluated through a follow up survey addressing the merits and impact of sharing information through the website and workshop. The survey will seek information on post project lab/studio conditions and impact on teaching /learning.

### *9. Dissemination: How the Project Will Be Shared with ACS Colleagues?*

Dissemination will occur through the website, surveys and workshop.