The Algorithmic Composition of Classical Music

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Participants –

The purpose of this study is to analyze the potential of our proposed form of algorithmic music composition. Participants will need no computer science knowledge to answer the following questions but will require a background in aural skills and classical music.

Once you begin, you will hear three 15 second arrangements of algorithmically generated music. Please note that the music does not intend or attempt to replicate rhythm, merely note intervals. As a result, each note played will be the same duration, 750 milliseconds. The system also focuses only on major intervals within the key of C.

After each section, you will be asked to answer which of the six listed classical eras of music you believe the system was attempting to replicate, as well as your confidence of the correctness of your answer on a scale from 1-5.

At the end of the exercise, you may open the file entitled “Post-Study Debrief”, if you wish to learn more about how this experiment was conducted and you may contact Tom Richmond to ask questions.

Section One:

Play files 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3

Which era do you think these clips belong to?

* Medieval
* Renaissance
* Baroque
* Classical
* Romantic
* Modern

How confident are you on a scale from 1-5 in your response?

* 1 (Not confident)
* 2
* 3
* 4
* 5 (Very confident)

Section Two:

Play files 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3

Which era do you think these clips belong to?

* Medieval
* Renaissance
* Baroque
* Classical
* Romantic
* Modern

How confident are you on a scale from 1-5 in your response?

* 1 (Not confident)
* 2
* 3
* 4
* 5 (Very confident)

Section Three:

Play files 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3

Which era do you think these clips belong to?

* Medieval
* Renaissance
* Baroque
* Classical
* Romantic
* Modern

How confident are you on a scale from 1-5 in your response?

* 1 (Not confident)
* 2
* 3
* 4
* 5 (Very confident)

Section Four:

Play files 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3

Which era do you think these clips belong to?

* Medieval
* Renaissance
* Baroque
* Classical
* Romantic
* Modern

How confident are you on a scale from 1-5 in your response?

* 1 (Not confident)
* 2
* 3
* 4
* 5 (Very confident)

Section Five:

Play files 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3

Which era do you think these clips belong to?

* Medieval
* Renaissance
* Baroque
* Classical
* Romantic
* Modern

How confident are you on a scale from 1-5 in your response?

* 1 (Not confident)
* 2
* 3
* 4
* 5 (Very confident)

Section Six:

Play files 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3

Which era do you think these clips belong to?

* Medieval
* Renaissance
* Baroque
* Classical
* Romantic
* Modern

How confident are you on a scale from 1-5 in your response?

* 1 (Not confident)
* 2
* 3
* 4
* 5 (Very confident)