Experiment Statement

The Algorithmic Composition of Classical Music through Data Mining

By Tom Donald Richmond and Dr. Imad Rahal

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, all three intended to replicate the same style. 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 classical era of music you believe the system was attempting to replicate, as well as your confidence on a scale from 1-5 on the correctness of your answers. If you had trouble picking a certain section for any reason, please leave a comment as to what made the decision difficult. Make note that each section does indeed attempt to replicate a certain era, and each era is only replicated in one section.

At the end of the exercise, please open the file entitled “Post-Study Debrief” to learn more about how this experiment was conducted. You may also contact Tom Donald Richmond if you have specific questions.

Section One:

Play file 1.mpg

Which era do you think these clips belong to?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Medieval | * Classical |
| * Renaissance | * Romantic |
| * Baroque | * Modern |

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Why did you choose this confidence level?

Section Two:

Play file 2.mpg

Which era do you think these clips belong to?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Medieval | * Classical |
| * Renaissance | * Romantic |
| * Baroque | * Modern |

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Why did you choose this confidence level?

Section Three:

Play file 3.mpg

Which era do you think these clips belong to?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Medieval | * Classical |
| * Renaissance | * Romantic |
| * Baroque | * Modern |

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Why did you choose this confidence level?

Section Four:

Play file 4.mpg

Which era do you think these clips belong to?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Medieval | * Classical |
| * Renaissance | * Romantic |
| * Baroque | * Modern |

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Why did you choose this confidence level?

Section Five:

Play file 5.mpg

Which era do you think these clips belong to?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Medieval | * Classical |
| * Renaissance | * Romantic |
| * Baroque | * Modern |

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Why did you choose this confidence level?

Section Six:

Play file 6.mpg

Which era do you think these clips belong to?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Medieval | * Classical |
| * Renaissance | * Romantic |
| * Baroque | * Modern |

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Why did you choose this confidence level?