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## Participant Information Sheet

### Study title

Sketch Synth

### Version number and date

Version 1.01:05.11.2021

### Researcher's name

Sebastian Löbbers supervised by Dr. George Fazekas

**Queen Mary Ethics of Research Committee reference number: QMERC20.594**

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### Invitation paragraph

You are being invited to participate in a research study. Before you decide whether or not you wish to participate in this study, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us questions if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

### What is the purpose of the study and what would taking part involve?

The purpose of this study is to find out how people evaluate a prototype of sketch-based sound synthesiser. The results will be helpful to improve this system. You can find out more about this PhD research [here](#).

You will first be presented with a short tutorial to adjust your sound volume and familiarise yourself with the sketching interface. You will then continue to the main part of the study where you will sequentially be presented with 6 different sketch prompts (e.g. Draw a calm sound). After submitting your sketch, you will be presented with a sound and you will be asked to evaluate on a scale from 0-100 how well you think it represents your sketch

After completing all rounds, you will first be asked to disclose very general personal data about your age, gender and occupation and then be invited to fill in a questionnaire about your experience with music, art and design and you will get the opportunity to leave general feedback about the study.

It will take approximately 10 minutes to complete this study. The study will be conducted entirely online and you will only have to participate once. Your replies to the survey questions and your interaction with the interfaces will be recorded for analysis. All data will be submitted at the end of the study.

### **Why am I being invited?**

You are being invited to participate in this research study because you are over the age of 18 and have normal or corrected vision and hearing.

You should not take part in this study if you are under the age of 18 and if you are not able to perceive objects on a computer screen or listen to sound with headphones or through loudspeakers.

### **Do I have to take part?**

This participant information sheet has been written to help you decide if you would like to take part. It is up to you whether you wish to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be free to withdraw at any time without needing to provide a reason, and with no penalties or detrimental effects.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Taking part in the study will support this PhD research that aims to further our understanding of human associations between sound and visual and how these findings can be used in practical sound application. The proposed outcome of a sketch-based sound synthesiser will make it easier for anyone to create a sound in a straightforward way.

### **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

Keep in mind that this study involves sound. Sounds might be louder than expected and could potentially startle you or in a very unlikely scenario cause harm to your hearing. Please make sure that the volume of your headphones or speakers is on a low level before starting this study.

### **Expenses and payments**

There is no payment for participating.

### **What information about me will you be collecting?**

Data about your age, gender and occupation, your experience with music, art and design as well as data about your experience with the interface will be collected through surveys. In addition, the position of your mouse and mouse events (click and release) and the width and height of your browser window and your browser name during the interaction with the interface will be recorded. A copy of your sketches will be saved.

### **How will my data be stored and who will have access to it?**

Your data will be stored in fully anonymised format in London, UK, and only the PhD researcher Sebastian Löbbbers and the principal investigator Dr. George Fazekas will be able to access it. Your data information will be treated as strictly confidential and handled in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 and comply with the data processing and storage policies of Queen Mary University of London

[Data Protection Policy](#)  
[Information/Data Governance Policy – DG14 – Storage of information](#)

### **When and how will my data be destroyed?**

Your data will be saved electronically for 5 years after collection and erased through hard drive formatting.

### **How will my data be used and shared?**

The results of this study will be part of the PhD thesis that is connected to this research project. Results will be mentioned in a future conference or journal paper publication. All data is stored locally in an anonymised form and will not be accessible for or shared with anyone else than the involved researchers.

[Research Data Access and Management Policy](#)

### **Under what legal basis are you collecting this information?**

Queen Mary University of London processes personal data for research purposes in accordance with the lawful basis of 'public task'.

Please read [Queen Mary's privacy notice for research participants](#) containing important information about your personal data and your rights in this respect. If you have any questions relating to data protection, please contact Queen Mary's Data Protection Officer, Queens' Building, Mile End Road, London, E1 4NS or [data-protection@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@qmul.ac.uk) or 020 7882 7596.

### **What will happen if I want to withdraw from this study?**

You can withdraw from this study at any time without providing a reason. Withdrawing will have no disadvantage for you, and you will hear no more about this study. Your data will only be submitted if you complete the study.

Your data will be saved entirely anonymised and is not possible to link the data to a particular person. For this reason, it is however not possible to delete the data entry of a specific person.

### **What should I do if I have any concerns about this study?**

If you have any concerns about the manner in which the study was conducted, in the first instance, please contact the researcher(s) responsible for the study Dr. George Fazekas - [g.fazekas@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:g.fazekas@qmul.ac.uk). If you have a complaint which you feel you cannot discuss with the researchers then you should contact the Research Ethics Facilitators by e-mail: [research-ethics@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:research-ethics@qmul.ac.uk). When contacting the Research Ethics Facilitators, please provide details of the study title, description of the study and QMERC reference number (where possible), the researcher(s) involved, and details of the complaint you wish to make.

**Who can I contact if I have any questions about this study?**

Dr. George Fazekas  
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