



Participant Information Sheet

AI and Music Making Research Study 2023 – Evaluation

Version 0.2: 13.03.2023

REF No: QMERC22.231

Centre for Digital Music (C4DM)

School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science (EECS)

Corey Ford
PhD Researcher
(c.j.ford@qmul.ac.uk)
Queen Mary University of London

Prof Nick Bryan-Kinns
Project Supervisor
(n.bryan-kinns@qmul.ac.uk)
Queen Mary University of London

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 explore how digital tools such as Artificial Intelligence can be designed to support people's engagement and reflection in music composition. It is focused on a piece of AI-empowered software, described below.

If you decide to participate, you will be asked to: consent to the terms below; meet with the researcher in-person; answer a questionnaire profiling your age, musical ability and capacity to self-reflect; complete two music composition tasks using different configurations of our software; answer questions on your experience using the software; and participate in an interview. Overall, the study will take no longer than 75 mins and only has to be completed once.

What software will I be using?

The software you will be using was developed alongside people who are likely similar to yourself. With the software, you are able to create music by connecting together colourful puzzle shaped pieces. It is purposefully designed such that people with no musical experience are able to write music and create their own compositions. During the study, you will be shown a video demonstrating how to use the software. We will be asking for your honest opinion as feedback.

Why am I being invited?

You are being invited to participate in this research study because we are looking for adults (aged 18+) with an interest in creativity and computer technology, but with little experience in music composition. You should not take part in this study if you consider yourself to have expertise in music or are under the age of 18.

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 up until the 21st of April 2023 without needing to provide a reason, and with no penalties or detrimental effects. To do so, please e-mail the researchers stating the ID number given to you on the certificate received at the end of the study session. If requested, your data will be completely destroyed; after the 21st of April 2023 we are unable to destroy your data because it will have been analysed and submitted for a journal publication. There are no penalties or detrimental effects if you do, or do not, decide to take part in the study.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

This research contributes to work on Artificial Intelligence and Music, which can be beneficial to society as a whole; supporting music, arts, and STEM education. You might also improve your digital and musical skills by experimenting with our software, and hopefully enjoy providing feedback on our system.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

We do not foresee or anticipate any significant risk of taking part in this study. If you feel uncomfortable at any time, then you are free to stop at any moment; incomplete responses will not be recorded. You are also encouraged to get in contact with any of the researchers if you have any concerns.

Expenses and payments

Taking part in this study is free; there are no financial obligations. If you are one of the first 24 participants who have taken part in the study, you will be given a £20 Amazon voucher for your participation, which does not need to be refunded in any instance (e.g. if you decide to withdraw your data). This will be sent to you via e-mail once the researchers have collected data from all 24 participants. This is because the researchers need to pass your e-mail onto the QMUL finance team who will process the payment – we will keep you updated on progress by email (and will not pass on your e-mail to anyone else or use it for any other reason).

What information about me will you be collecting?

We will be collecting various different information:

- **Interaction Data** – when using our software tool, every mouse click and drag operation is logged, in order for the researchers to understand how you used our software.
- **Questionnaire** – we will also ask you to complete a few short questionnaires to gauge your user experience and feelings of reflection, as well as your skill levels in music.
- **Video Recordings** – we will be making video recordings of your computer screen, meaning that your music composition and speaking (via microphone) will be recorded.
- **Personal Data** – we will be asking for your age, gender and what your course of study is. Your name, if mentioned elsewhere in the study, will be replaced with an ID number in all instances.

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

Your data will be stored in a de-identified format on the OneDrive service hosted by Queen Mary, ensuring that the data is held in the UK. In other words, the data will be assigned an ID. This folder will be password protected and only Prof Nick Bryan-Kinns and Corey Ford will be able to access it. Your ID number will be given to you on a certificate provided upon study completion – keep this safe in-case you wish to request that your data is deleted as this is the only way of linking yourself to the data.

When and how will my data be destroyed?

The data will be retained until the end of Corey Ford's research programme (December 2025), thereafter it will be completely destroyed. This is in the case that Ford's examiners request that the data should be re-analysed using a different technique. Additionally, the interaction logs, questionnaire responses and transcripts of video recordings will be made available to the public through Queen Mary's research repositories; this will be fully anonymous and does not include any video footage or personal data (it will be impossible to identify yourself from this data). You are able to request that the data is destroyed at any time up until the **21st April 2023** by contacting the researchers and stating the ID number given to you on the certificate received at the end of the session.

How will my data be used and shared?

The aim is to report the results of this study in Corey Ford's PhD thesis and in a peer-reviewed journal. It may also be used in future publications, for example, in peer-reviewed conference proceedings. Your (anonymised) data will also be available to the public through Queen Mary's open-access research data repositories.

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 or 020 7882 7596.

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

You can withdraw from the study at any time without providing a reason up until the **21st April 2023**. In the event that you wish to stop taking part in the study, your data will be completely destroyed. There will be no negative effects or penalties.

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 Prof. Nick Bryan-Kinns (n.bryan-kinns@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. 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?

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with any of the following researchers with any questions:

- **Corey Ford**, c.j.ford@qmul.ac.uk
- **Prof Nick Bryan-Kinns**, n.bryan-kinns@qmul.ac.uk

Consent Form

Title of Research Study: AI and Music Making Research Study 2023 – Evaluation

Version: 0.2, **Date:** 13.03.2023

Project Supervisor: Prof Nick Bryan-Kinns (n.bryan-kinns@qmul.ac.uk)

Student Investigator: Corey Ford (c.j.ford@qmul.ac.uk)

Queen Mary Ethics of Research Committee Ref: QMERC22.231

Thank you for your interest in this research.

Should you wish to participate in the study, please consider the following statements. Before signing the consent form, you should initial all or any of the statements that you agree with. Your signature confirms that you are willing to participate in this research, however you are reminded that you are free to withdraw your participation at any time.

Statement	Please initial box
1. I confirm that I have read the Participant Information Sheet dated 13.03.2023 version 0.2 for the above study; or it has been read to me. I have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily.	
2. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to stop taking part in the study at any time without giving any reason and without my rights being affected.	
3. I understand that my data will be accessed by Prof Nick Bryan-Kinns and Corey Ford.	
4. I understand that my data will be securely stored in the UK on QMUL's One Drive service and in accordance with the data protection guidelines of the Queen Mary University of London until the end of Corey Ford's research programme of study (December 2025) in a pseudonymised form.	
5. I understand that I can access the information I have provided and request destruction of that information at any time prior to 21 st April 2023. I understand that following the 21 st April 2023 I will not be able to request withdrawal of the information I have provided.	
6. I agree to the interview and composition sessions being audio & video recorded.	
7. I agree to my transcribed audio material being published as part of this research in anonymized form.	

8. I understand that the researcher will not identify me in any publications and other study outputs using personal information obtained from this study.	
10. I agree to interaction logs, questionnaires and interview transcripts being shared in open-access repositories.	
12. I agree to take part in the above study.	

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

_____	_____	_____
Participant name	Date	Signature

Participant e-mail (Required only to send Amazon Voucher payment – we will not contact you otherwise).

_____	_____	_____
Name of person taking consent	Date	Signature

I Corey Ford confirm that I have carefully explained the nature, demands and any foreseeable risks (where applicable) of the proposed research to the participant and provided a copy of this form.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the researchers at the following...

Corey Ford
PhD Researcher
(c.j.ford@qmul.ac.uk)

Prof Nick Bryan-Kinns
Project Supervisor
(n.bryan-kinns@qmul.ac.uk)