



Participant Information Sheet

Exploring Reflection in AI Music Making with a Novel Autoethnographic Method

Version 0.1: 20.10.2023

REF No: QMERC20.565.DSEEC23.121

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

Tony Stockman
Project Supervisor
(t.stockman@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 understand the different ways that AI music composers reflect when making music across a range of different AI tools. It is focused on a novel methodology for scaffolding your reflection on your creative process, described below.

If you decide to participate, you will be asked to:

- consent to the terms below;
- write a 1 min piece of music using a novel AI tool you developed;
- meet with the researcher for multiple drop-in meetings, which are audio-recorded throughout the composition process;
- answer a questionnaire profiling your age, musical ability and capacity to self-reflect;
- document your composing by recording your practice, reflecting on screenshots extracted from the video using a Python script, and Miro (<https://miro.com/>);
- answer questions on your experience of the reflection process;
- and write 500-1000 words conveying your experience using your AI tool to compose your piece.

The study will require an estimated minimum of 10 hours (4 hours composing + 4 hours for all meetings + 2 hours for the final writeup). **The deadline for study completion is the 18th December 2023.** It only has to be completed once.

What tools will I be using?

The PhD researcher developed a Python script you will be using. The Python script will take in a video of yourself recording and return screenshots every 2.5 minutes. This is to help document your creative process in an unobtrusive way. These screenshots will then be used alongside a tool called Miro, where you are able to add these screenshots and annotate them using virtual post-it notes. During the study, you will be guided on how to use the code and Miro (<https://miro.com/>) – a “how-to guide” will be provided. At the end of the study, we will ask for your honest opinion and feedback on using this application as part of your reflective, creative process.

Why am I being invited?

You are invited to participate in this research study because we are looking for adults (aged 18+) who have developed their own novel AI tools for music making or have integrated AI tools into their musical practice in a novel way. We also ask that participants have a PhD in AI and Music or similar (e.g. a MAT student or IGGI PhD Student with an AI music focused project). Participants also should use a Mac computer as part of their music-making. You should not take part in this study if you do not meet the criteria above.

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 not decide to participate, you will be free to withdraw until the 18th December 2023 without needing to provide a reason and with no penalties or detrimental effects. To do so, please e-mail the PhD researcher (c.j.ford@qmul.ac.uk). If requested, your data will be completely destroyed; after the 18th of December 2023 we are unable to destroy your data because it will be integrated into a paper submission to the ACM Creativity & Cognition conference. There are no penalties or detrimental effects if you do or do not decide to participate in the study.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are several benefits to taking part. First, you are given an opportunity to develop your own music-making practice and test your own AI tools. You are also financially compensated in line with Musician's Unions rates for commissioning songs with a £100 voucher (either Amazon or a music company of your choice). Participants completing the autoethnographic write-up (500-1000 words) will also become co-authors on the paper submission to the ACM Creativity & Cognition conference, where you might gain citations supporting your academic career.

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. 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. You will be given a £100 voucher for writing your music, which does not need to be refunded in any instance (e.g. if you decide to withdraw your data before 18th December 2023). This will be sent to you once the researchers have collected data from all of the participants. This is because the researchers might 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:

- **Screenshots & Reflections** – when using our Python script, screenshots will be collected. You are in control of which screenshots are given to us as we only view the screenshots in the Miro board. Your post-it note reflections on these screenshots in Miro are also collected.
- **Questionnaire** – we will also ask you to complete a few questionnaires to gauge your user experience and feelings of reflection, as well as your skill levels in music.
- **Audio Recordings** – we will be making audio recordings of our drop in-discussions throughout the process.
- **Personal Data** – we will be asking for your age, gender and what your course of study is.

Note: your participation in this study is not anonymous! You become a co-author of the paper if you complete the autoethnography. If you do not complete the autoethnography but complete the other aspects of the study, then you will be credited in the paper acknowledgements. You will be referred to by name in the final research paper. This is necessary as we are interested in your personal and unique perspectives. Participants who wish to be anonymous should not take part.

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

Your data will be stored on the OneDrive service hosted by Queen Mary, ensuring that the data is held in the UK. This folder will be password-protected, and only you and the PhD Investigator will be able to access it. Miro will also store data in its own application, which is again password protected and only accessible by yourself and the PhD investigator.

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 be re-analysed using a different technique. Additionally, the music, questionnaire responses, transcripts of video recordings and Miro boards will be made available to the public through Queen Mary's research repositories. You are able to request that the data be destroyed at any time up until the **18th December 2023** by contacting the researchers without needing to offer a reason.

How will my data be used and shared?

The aim is to report the results of this study in Corey Ford's PhD thesis. It will also be submitted to the ACM Conference on Creativity & Cognition as a full paper – and might then be used in other peer-reviewed conference proceedings. Your data will 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 **18th December 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. Tony Stockman (t.stockman@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 Tony Stockman**, t.stockman@qmul.ac.uk



Consent Form

Title of Research Study: Exploring Reflection in AI Music Making with a Novel Autoethnographic Method

Version: 0.1, **Date:** 20.10.2023

Project Supervisor: Tony Stockman (t.stockman@qmul.ac.uk)

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

Queen Mary Ethics of Research Committee Ref: QMERC20.565.DSEECs23.121.

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 20.10.2023 version 0.1 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 Tony Stockman 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 Queen Mary University of London until the end of Corey Ford's research programme of study (December 2025).	
5. I understand that I can access the information I have provided and request the destruction of that information at any time prior to 18th December 2023. I understand that following the 18th December 2023 I will not be able to request the withdrawal of the information I have provided.	
6. I agree to the interviews and discussions being audio recorded.	
7. I agree to my transcribed audio material being published as part of this	

research.	
8. I understand that co-authorship will be granted only upon completing of the autoethnographic portion of this study.	
9. I understand that I will be identifiable in publications and other study outputs using personal information obtained from this study.	
10. I agree to my data 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
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Participant e-mail (we will only contact you on matters related to the study e.g. for voucher payment)

Name of person taking consent	Date	Signature
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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)

Tony Stockman
Project Supervisor
(t.stockman@qmul.ac.uk)