Mike Cottrel College of Business

Department of Computer Science & Information Systems

CSCI 4950 – Senior Project

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**Assignment 1**

**(Title/Abstract)**

Title: **Alternative Approaches to Page Turning for Digital Sheet Music\***

**Abstract:**

In an increasingly post-print world, much information that was traditionally stored on paper has been almost entirely transferred to digital media. The areas where this is not the case often tend toward one of two categories: information whose security status requires physical layers of protection and information which, due to human physiology, is most easily consumed in their physical state. In the past, Novels belonged squarely in this latter category, and it was largely in an attempt to imitate a book’s ease of use that the Amazon Kindle and similar products were designed. Another type of print media that has suffered a somewhat diminished incarnation in digital form is sheet music. A musician’s relationship to their sheet music is a critical one, largely built around the act of page turning; practiced musicians can fluidly turn a page then continue playing in fractions of a second, and sheet music is written to synchronize breaks in the music with page turns as a matter of course. However, much of this ease of use is lost when reading off of a screen, and for many musicians, particularly those less financially privileged, a library where digital sheet music represents the dominant part is normal. Moreover, they may be stored as pdfs, word or text documents, images, or any number of other file types, for which the few, and often expensive, solutions available may be ineffective. The products that do exist tend to focus on replicating the traditional page for a touch screen. However, it is the intent of this paper to explore other possibilities, such as a discrete interval or continuous page scroll paced with respect to particular time measures, a scroll or page turn triggered by audio feedback, or other approaches that do not rely on a touch screen or a particular file format. It is worth noting that, while Kindle-like products are effective at reproducing the process of reading a physical book, there are speed reading programs, such as Spritz, that demonstrate digital media can actually be superior to traditional media with regards to certain metrics. This paper proposes that the necessity of the page turn, may be a holdover from print media that musicians could perform better without.

\* Not the final title