21M.370 Digital Instrument Design
Reading assignment - Due February 22 at 11:30am

The reading this week consists of an article giving an overview of the instrument design process from a modular synth perspective, as well as learning about several different modular synth performers.

In 2016, the Canadian Electroacoustic Community published an online issue of their journal eContact which focused on the modular synthesis revival. We will take a look at several articles from this journal — for this week, read Rob Hordijk's "Designing Instruments for Electronic Music".

Following that, choose ONE of the performers below, read the interview and watch the video, and consider why these artists got involved in modular synthesis and what role instrument design plays in their practice.

Robert Aiki Aubrey Lowe
- interview: https://thequietus.com/articles/16092-robert-aiki-aubrey-lowe-lichens-interview
- video: https://youtu.be/Jr_8RmjXK54

Kaitlyn Aurelia Smith
- interview: https://www.festicket.com/magazine/interviews/kaitlyn-aurelia-smith-interview/
- video: https://youtu.be/95UvPlhjbE4

Keith Fullerton Whitman
- interview: https://www.ableton.com/en/blog/keith-fullerton-whitman
- video: https://youtu.be/2_etELAkVKg

Response

Write a 1/2 page response to the above. Don't summarize the reading, instead focus on one or two elements that seem important or interesting to you, and consider how these elements might impact your own instrument design.

presents a general overview of the components of modular synthesizers. Consider the following questions both when reading the article and when writing your analysis:

1. Who is the author? Do a quick search to find out where are they stand within the music community. Are they an instrument designer, performer, composer, academic? Is there anything about them that would suggest a certain viewpoint? How do they make their living?
2. What does the article say about why people are interested in modulars, and the kinds of compositional and performance techniques they (should) use?
3. What does the article say about how community has developed around modular systems?
4. What kinds of assertions is the author making, who are they making these assertions to, and do you agree with them?
5. How would your performer reacts to viewpoints presented in the article?

For each article, I will include a few introductory notes to help orient you. Also, feel free to do background research if you run into a concept or technology that you aren't familiar with. As additional background, read the first section of the introductory editorial describing the context of the journal issue:
https://econtact.ca/17_4/editorial.html

Just as a reminder, if you are open to sharing your research with the class, save it in the google folder. I made a new folder for the CEC articles.
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zFa52wdZRgsGv8ZM9zroe61QbG-1g12E?usp=sharing