

INDEPENDENT STUDY CONTRACT

Note: Enrolment is subject to approval by the projects co-ordinator

SECTION A (Students and Supervisors)

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PROJECT SUPERVISOR (may be external): Ben Swift

COURSE SUPERVISOR (a RSCS academic): Ben Swift

COURSE CODE, TITLE AND UNIT: COMP4560 Advanced Computing Project

SEMESTER _S1 2017_____

PROJECT TITLE:

An evaluation of touch-based music sequencer apps on iPad

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Conduct a survey & create an interface taxonomy of current music sequencer apps on the iOS app store
- Perform an HCI user study of a selection of these apps (based on the taxonomy) measuring the user experience & preferences of musicians in creating music with these interfaces
- Propose some design guidelines for creating interfaces for music sequencer apps

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

While musical interfaces have long been studied in HCI, the iPad and app store has produced thousands of novel (and not-so-novel) twists on the “grid-based” sequencer paradigm.

By reviewing a selection (20+) of current iOS sequencer interfaces in depth, this project will create a taxonomy of design approaches, drawing out the common patterns (and areas of divergence/innovation) in these interfaces.

Having performed this classification, the project will further explore the major design axes through a user-study. In this, musicians will be given various apps in an open-ended music-making task, and will answer a user-experience questionnaire and short interview to further probe the impacts of these design choices. As a result, a set of design guidelines/considerations will be produced for the construction of interfaces for music sequencing.