Response: ST2 Interview

LucasArts is a video game development company known for its innovative use of audio in its games. One of the major contributions of LucasArts' audio team is the development of the iMUSE (Interactive Music Streaming Engine) system for adaptive and dynamic audio in video games. Developed by George Sanger in the late 1980s, it was first used in the 1989 game Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade: The Graphic Adventure. Although rudimentary at the time, it was deemed effective enough to be further optimized.

The iMUSE system was refined and expanded upon soon after by Clint Bajakian and Peter McConnell, who both worked on several games developed by LucasArts. Bajakian and McConnell used the iMUSE system to create dynamic music that changed based on the mood and atmosphere of their games. One of the most notable examples of the iMUSE system in action is the "Monkey Island Theme" from the 1990 game *The Secret of Monkey Island*. The theme features a simple melody that is repeated with various instrumentation and arrangements, depending on the player's location and actions. This simple yet effective technique was later refined and expanded upon in subsequent games in the series.

The iMUSE system, which allowed for seamless transitions between music tracks based on the player's actions and in-game events, is one of the earliest examples of an adaptive audio system being effectively used across multiple games by a AAA studio. The contributions of George Sanger, Clint Bajakian, and Peter McConnell to the development of the iMUSE system have had a significant impact on the way music is used in video games. Its ability to seamlessly transition between music tracks in real-time has helped to create a more immersive and

interactive gaming experience for players and solidify adaptive audio as a necessary part of immersive games.