Van Stiefel
West Chester University of Pennsylvannia
Swope School of Music

vstiefel@wcupa.edu
van@vanstiefel.com

Documented Performance: TedXPhoenixville September 2010

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24Q7gezqYwg

Go to time 15:04 to hear premiere of Jargo's Table
Listen to all to hear my platitudes about laptop ensemble music.

ABSTRACT:

Jargo's Table (for four laptops on a local network). *Jargo's Table* is an
"instrument/piece" in which each (laptop) player is responsible for determining a singular
compositional parameter for all four machines. One machine chooses "Texture," or which
machine, or pairs, will play ordered or unordered pitch sequences (called "Colors," as in
isorhythmic motet). A second machine chooses the actual pitch content from an array of
given sets. A third instrument chooses from a small palette of timbres for single machine,
pairs, or all machines in combination. The fourth chooses from palettes of duration
sequences, and/or a multipliers for the "unit-pulse", and/or delay values(control rate) for
the onset of the rhythmic sequences on a given machine (so that, for instance: if the
"Texture" player chooses an "ordered" melody for all instruments and the "Rhythm"
player delays one or more machines, a canonic textures will result.

As it is, Jargo's Table is a "chamber piece" for four "composer/improvisors;" however, a
large ensemble version could be implemented if presenters are comfortable turning
groups of stations stations into "bots." Interesting textures might arise from such an
arrangement; though, at heart, this piece is about four composer-players. The audio may
be "PLOrk-style:" that is, each station is located in space and sonically emanates from
that location. On the other hand, a PA or multi version can be imagined with audio mixed
in a variety of ways, stereo or otherwise. These piece aspires to underscore the
interdependence of constituent elements in music making.