

# From Me to Us, a computer generated music installation

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From Me to Us is a computer generated music installation for participants with all kinds of musical backgrounds. It is an improvisation process, interacting with MIDI instruments by using an electric guitar as an interface.

The installation creates an experimental environment wherein a music piece is composed by many people. From Me to Us is a collaborative environment because of the collective improvisational identity between people or people and machine. Besides just creating the possibility for everyone to explore musical creativity by taking part in the improvisation process, this identity of cooperation evaluates the From Me to Us installation into an open form music composition.

Nontraditional and computer based applications simulate the possibilities of creative freedom in music and enlarge them into open form music structures. Instead of the finite length and the finite musical characteristics, constant flow identity of the pieces becomes an active part of the structure. The open form music structure evaluates the composition into a process wherein participation may be required for the continuity of it. Each participant composes a piece of the composition during the From Me to Us installation and as long as they are actively taking part, it becomes a continuous process. This composition takes part in real time. There is no recording, no logical beginning or end in this music piece. The improvisation turns into a continuous composition.

During musical improvisation there is a continuous communication between musicians. The interactive system that runs in the From Me to Us installation creates this communication with participants on the listen and respond ground. This two-way interaction supports the improvisation's beautiful and ever-changing music identity, and brings unexpected beauty on the stage. Interactive system is constructed by using the Max/MSP programming environment.

The electric guitar has a lot of cultural baggage in the development of band music. This is why I chose the electric guitar as an interface in the installation to simulate a musical band environment. As the experience in the trial confirmed, being familiar with an electric guitar can create more possibilities to discover the interaction paths. However, not being familiar with an electric guitar does not end up being a disadvantage in this installation. Neither a background in music or previous experience with an electric guitar is required to take part in this collaborative environment.

The concept behind this installation strongly supports collective musical improvisation. This collaboration turns the improvisation into a music piece that is composed by many people. The From Me to Us installation gets its name from evaluating the term "me" inside the composers into "us" due to its collaborative participatory identity.

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