Date: Wed, 27 Mar 1996 13:50:10 -0800 (PST)
From: gregory scandalis <gps@netcom.com>
Subject: CLM and Sondius Voices
To: Mary Watanabe <mary@otlmail.stanford.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0

Mary,

What the heck is CLM?
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CLM stands for Common Lisp Music. Its a set of extensions to the language
LISP, and its used by composers at various universities to do Synthesis.
There is a set of unitGenerators in CLM that are similar to the
unitGenerators in SB/MK. CLM is a non-interactive, non-graphical,
non-realtime environment. Meaning you can't play the instruments, you
ask CLM to calculate a sound file using a score, an write it to disk.
You then play the soundfile back. Composers use CLM to calculate sound
files as part of compositions.

The Sondius voices could be ported to CLM. That is what Bill is asking
for.

What are some of the issues here?
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Sondius instruments ported to CLM will drift through the academic
community around the world. The algorithms that we use will be freely
available (but in a very cryptic form, CLM Lisp)

One question would be, what does Sondius define as its intellectual
property. Is it purely patents, or is it also the expertise that we
build into the algorithms? Do we have the concept of a trade secrets as
well as patents. I feel that since the Sondius program is a tradmark
program, the value of the mark is drived both from the patent portfolio,
and the expertise archived in the program, in the form of algorithms.

One could argue that everyone should get the algorithms, just give them
away, because any commercial product would have to come to Stanford to
license the patents. But what about companies in countries that have
been historically bad about recognizing and paying for patents? They to
could have free access to the technology though the algorithms.

So one perspective might be that the Sondius instruments should not be
freely available to the whole world.

One middle ground position that Bill S, talked to me about was to
port the Sondius instruments, but only as precomiled instruments, so
that composers could use them, but not see their implementation.

It raises hard questions.

-pat

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| Gregory Pat Scandalis  | "Good taste is the enemy of creativity." |
|                   |    - Pablo Picasso                |
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|          *** All Mail forwards to the Netcom ***           |
|                                 |
| CCRMA                 gps@ccrma.stanford.edu |
| Exploratorium              gps@exploratorium.edu |
| Netcom                  gps@netcom.com |
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