

April 2, 1991

To: Robert T. Byer, Dean of Research

From: John M. Chowning, Director, CCRMA

Subject: Proposals for OTL Research Incentive Fund

Dear Professor Byer:

We are submitting two proposals for your consideration for the OTL Research Incentive Fund. Both are important in their respective fields, multi-disciplinary, make use of Stanford's unique attributes, and are otherwise unfundable.

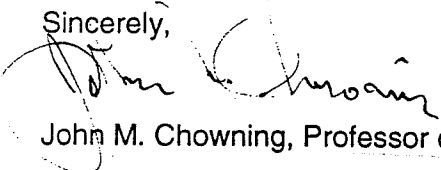
The first, "Human Voice Analysis, Recognition, and Synthesis" is highly complimentary to ongoing interest in research on the singing voice. This is an outgrowth of Professor Julius Smith's work in closed waveguide networks for which a patent has been issued. Yamaha has licensed the waveguide work and this research would not only increase its value to them but may attract other interests in speech-related activities as well. Proposals have been submitted for work in this area, but because of the unique and unprecedented approach and early stages of the research, funding agencies have declined to support this work.

The second proposal, "The Programmable Keyboard" compliments our research in synthesis techniques. The idea of simulated programmable resistances in a keyboard is a powerful one that would allow virtuoso performance on electronic instruments. The applications range from the historical performance scholarly studies of Prof. George Barth to the mass market of keyboard instruments.

Last year I spoke to Pat Devaney in regard to support of the "Human Voice Analysis" project at CCRMA. Her initial response was that CCRMA is already lavishly funded from royalty income and should have no need of further support. I explained to her the complexities of CCRMA funding; nearly all of CCRMA's operating costs are paid from royalty income and the remaining income is placed in an account that is building toward an endowment. (The patent expires in 1994 and we will have reached only 1/2 of our endowment goal.) Therefore, there are no funds to directly support research other than what can be raised from outside agencies. Pat Devaney felt none-the-less that the OTL Research Incentive Fund was targeted for somewhat different purposes.

I would like to request that you give special consideration to these proposals and to CCRMA's rather unique situation within the university, serving both engineering/sciences and humanities, but without the typical funding sources, and the difficulties that CCRMA will face in 1994 if we are not able to enhance our fund raising capabilities. Please call me at 53574 to discuss these issues.

Sincerely,



John M. Chowning, Professor of Music