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date: 24 april 1979  
vos réf:  
nos réf: JC/dr  
objet:

Dear Gordon,

I was unexpectedly called back to Stanford two weeks ago to help resolve a "crise" which developed since my arrival in Paris in december. In brief, the Computer Science Department wants the A.I. Lab and CCRMA (Computer Music Project) to "divorce" because of space constraints in the new C.S. quarters which are just now being completed. Although C.S. wanted to effect this change in status more or less immediately, I held out (I believe successfully) for some reasonable time. In as much as all of our programs and NSF and NEA contracts are based upon the assumption that our association with the A.I. Lab would continue (agreed to by the Lab), it seemed only reasonable that if there must be divorce it should be effected in such a way that our work is not interrupted.

This means, of course, that we must put together an independent system, which in turn means raising money. I talked at length with the Provost and the Development Office about fund raising and the University is committed to helping us. They asked about the possibility of industry support for our project and in particular someone high in the computer industry who knows about our work who also could give us some advice. You are the one and therefore this letter.

In as much as DEC has already shown considerable generosity in regard to the BSO project (which is still moving, although slowly), I am not inclined to ask you for further support, and certainly do not want to confuse our current needs with the BSO project. Rather, I would like to ask you personally to help us identify people in the computer industry to whom we can make our case and perhaps even more important to help us develop a strategy and serve as a reference/advocate within the industry as one who knows something of our work. The latter seems to me to be important since it is rather rare to find executives in the U.S. who are sensitive

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IRCAM  
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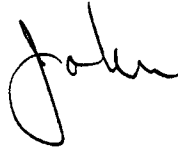
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to the importance of the application of the new technology to the arts... and I suspect that the opinion of one who is could help a great deal. There is much that we are doing which has significance beyond music composition, but I think that we need some help in forming a presentation which will be attractive to the computer industry.

There was a charming DEC representative at IRCAM several weeks ago who said that you would be in Europe during May (I also sent you, via charming representative, a cassette of some recent work I have been doing in vocal synthesis which I trust you received). I wonder if you might have time to stop by Paris to talk with me ? Alternatively, I could meet you somewhere in Europe or even fly to the U.S., as I am sure that Stanford would help with the flight.

I will be in Paris except for may 19-23 when I will be in Stockholm. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



John M. CHOWNING

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