THE METASAXOPHONE



The Metasaxophone is an acoustic tenor saxophone retrofitted with an onboard computer microprocessor and an array of sensors that convert performance data into independent continuous control messages for a computer. The instrument has additionally been outfitted with a unique microphone system allowing for detailed control of the amplified sound. While maintaining full acoustic functionality the metasax is also a versatile computer controller and an electric instrument.

A primary motivation behind the Metasaxophone is to put signal processing under direct expressive control of the performer. Through the combination of gestural and audio performance tracking, employing both discrete and continuous multilayered mapping strategies, the Metasaxophone can be adapted for a wide range of musical purposes. The instrument was invented and built by Matthew Burtner at the CCRMA/Stanford University.

Detailed information is available at http://www.metasax.com/.

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Further Reading on the Metasaxophone Technology:

- M. Burtner, "The Metasaxophone: Concept, Implementation and Mapping Strategies for a New Computer Music Instrument," Organized Sound, Cambridge Press, 2002.
- C. Burns and M. Burtner, "Recursive Audio Systems: Acoustic Feedback in Composition," Leonardo, MIT Press 2004.
- M. Burtner and S. Serafin, "The Exbow Metasax: Compositional Applications of Bowed String Physical Models Using Instrument Controller Substitution," Journal of New Music Research, Swets & Zeitlinger, 2001.

