

## Question 1:

This question threw me off guard a bit because unlike many others in this class, I don't have much experience in creative works in music. My only exposure so far to computer based music was my involvement with Slork a couple of years ago. As part of that I was asked to create an ensemble piece. I was stumped. Not only was computer music and what it meant, very new to me, I have never in my life "composed" anything let alone using computer. The closest that I have come to "designing" or composing is just my exposure to actually writing software that solved some of world's problems (some of them trivial others not as much). As I struggled and stumbled and fought with the piece (quite truly it did seem like a struggle at times) I began to realize something - the elements of computer music as opposed to instrumental or vocal music are slightly different. Actually that may not be the case and may only reflect on my own lack of understanding. To think of computer generated music as merely a synthesis of sounds produced by instruments just by using electronic sound generation is severely limiting. I am still at a point where I am unable to let go of that notion. It is as though I am trying to learn a new language by falling back to a known language although the syntax and structure of the new language is quite dissimilar. I am banking on the fundamental of the semantics. I am thinking in my known language of traditional music and "translating" it into the new language. While it conveys the meaning, I feel it lacks essence. This analogy I think applies equally to computer programming languages. Since that is a field I feel more qualified to explain, let me elaborate. For anyone learning python for the first time having come from the java world, it is tempting and convenient even to think of solving a problem the java way and merely translating such program into python. (The problem exists in the opposite direction too but less severe since java cripples your creativity in ways that python doesn't). While the program does work, it hardly qualifies as a python program. In order to truly write something in python is to understand what python offers and look for solutions the python way rather than as a mere translation.