



School: Bath School of Music and Performing Arts

Researcher: James Saunders

Project Title: know that your actions reflect within the group

UOA 33: Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies

Research Timeline

Date	Rationale of research activities and decisions undertaken
July 2015	Commissioned by SWR / Donaueschinger Musiktage (Germany) to make a piece for Ictus Ensemble (Brussels) at the 2017 festival.
09.12.15	Visiting professor, Basel Musikakademie. Public lecture on game rules in music: <i>Playing games, playing music</i> .
Jan-June 2016	Specification of commission developed in collaboration with Bjorn Göttstein (Artistic Director, Donaueschinger Musiktage), Tom Pauwels (Ictus Ensemble) and the other commissioned composers (Francesca Verunelli, Martin Schüttler, and Hanna Eimermacher).
September-December 2016	Initial sketching and development of cueing mechanisms, material, and instrumental/electronic resources.
September 2016-February 2017	Research into group behaviours, looking at work on group dynamics (Forsyth 2015), rules in games (Juul 2003), procedural rhetoric (Bogost 2010) and values in games (Flanagan and Nissenbaum 2014). Established compositional methods that draw on these concepts to govern musician interaction. Presented paper: 'Rules and goals in game compositions', Ludo2017, Bath Spa University.
February-June 2017	Sketched new approach drawing on management theory and reinforcement learning, and rejected as player actions are too contrived. Finalised processes and material for the piece in response to interdisciplinary research. Established instrumentarium for each player and investigate iPad sound cueing apps.
01.07.17	Presented paper: 'What's the point? Balancing purpose and play in rule-based compositions', <i>Performing Indeterminacy</i> conference, University of Leeds.
July-October 2017	Completed piece and submitted to Ictus
13 October 2017	Rehearsed with Ictus Ensemble in Brussels

20-21 October 2017	Final rehearsals and set up with Ictus in Donaueschingen
21 October 2017	Public interview with Barbara Eckle.
21 October 2017	Three performances of piece in the Strawinsky Saal, Donaueschingen and broadcast live on SWR Classik and online. Documentation available on SWR website.