



School: Bath School of Music and Performing Arts

Researcher: James Saunders

Project Title: you are required to split your attention between multiple sources of information

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

Research Timeline

Date	Rationale of research activities and decisions undertaken
May 2016	Initial discussions with Bernhard Guenther (Wien Modern) and Christian Fausch (Ensemble Modern) about a commission for Wien Modern 2018.
July-September 2017	Start work on piece for Arditti Quartet/Ensemble Modern. Consider festival theme 'security' in relation to my work, especially in terms of instability. Begin drafting ideas and developing group dynamics strategies to employ.
January-March 2018	Return to piece after working on other projects. Explore self-organising structures, hierarchies and voting systems, focusing on power and control in groups. Develop initial piece for rehearsals with both ensembles in Frankfurt
April 2018	Workshop rehearsal of initial ideas leading to complete rethink of the basis for the piece, removing voting mechanism as no purpose apparent for players in making decisions. More research on cognitive load and attention in complex information streams.
May-October 2018	Rework piece with new cueing mechanisms controlled by a fixed audio track. Explore use of artificial voices, personalized cues, and density of cue information in relation to the physicality of player responses. Make initial version of audio track for final rehearsal week.
20-21 November 2018	Final rehearsals with both ensembles in Frankfurt. Make changes to audio cue track to balance the complexity of information.
23 November 2018	Rehearsal at Wien Konzerthaus. Make more changes to audio track to reduce familiarity for the players in advance of the performance
24 November 2018	Performance of piece, recorded for broadcast by Ö1 (Austrian radio)
24 November 2018	Record extended radio interview for zeit-ton, Ö1, broadcast on 27.11.18
January-March 2019	Prepare text for OUP chapter on group behaviours in music following presentations in 2018.
2021	Publication of book chapter: Saunders, J (2021) 'Group behaviours as music.' In: Timmers, R, Bailes, F and Deffern, H, eds. <i>Together in music: participation, co-ordination, and creativity in ensembles</i> . Oxford University Press, Oxford. (Forthcoming)