
John Coulter and Colin Webber

Queensland Conservatorium
Griffith University
Brisbane, 4101
Australia
john.coulter@griffith.edu.au
c.webber@griffith.edu.au

Synopsis

This project concerns the building of research networks in the field of electroacoustic music composition and research throughout Australia. The initiative is spearheaded by Griffith University Lecturers John Coulter and Colin Webber and is funded by the Queensland Conservatorium Research Centre.

As a member of the international Electroacoustic Music Studies Network I [John Coulter] am privileged to rub shoulders with some of the greatest living composers and scholars in this field. However, in contrast, my association with Australian electroacoustic composers and researchers has, to date, been minimal. In Australia, there is no national symposium for electroacoustic music. Instead, related disciplines such as Computer Music have traditionally supported the genre. As such, it is often difficult to develop local EAM networks. Interestingly, in my experience, these networks have been easier to develop at international events, where Australian electroacoustic composers and researchers are generally well known and respected. In this regard I have observed fluent transcontinental networks between Australian electroacoustic music experts, and less fluent local networks. Jean-Claude Coquempot refers to these connections as “lightbridges”.

For the purpose of building “lightbridges” throughout Australia, this project seeks to survey those working as electroacoustic composers and researchers in academic and private settings, and to record their details on an accessible on-line database (filemaker pro). The database [The Australian Electroacoustic Music Experts Network (AEMEN)] would then serve to support the composition and research of electroacoustic music in Australia in the following ways:

- The network would provide researchers with access to experts in the field of electroacoustic music for the purposes of undertaking collaborative NCG strategy research
- The network or part thereof would operate as an editorial board for the future publication of peer-reviewed scholarly works in the field of electroacoustic music studies
- The network would interface with established national and international organizations such as The Australian Sound Design Project, The Australian Music Centre, and The Electroacoustic Music Studies Network.

Poster - Building Lightbridges: The Australian Electroacoustic Music Experts Network (AEMEN)

- The network or part thereof would form the advisory council of The Society for Electroacoustic Music in Australia (SEAMA)*

*SEAMA is a newly formed organization under the direction of John Coulter and Gerardo Dirie in response to local student demand and staff interests in the discipline. The society is currently seeking start-up funding from local government bodies under the presidency of Queensland Composer Leah Barclay, and under advice from the SEAMA advisory board (currently Coulter, Dirie).

Biographies

John Coulter

"As a multimedia composer I am concerned with manipulating the deep structures of psychophysical language"

John Coulter is a composer engaged in creative projects involving film and video production, live transformation of audio and video, and electroacoustic music. He is also a keen scholar of music and of multimedia composition in theory and practice.

While living in New Zealand, John received a national prize in electroacoustic composition from the Composer's Association of New Zealand and regular airplay on New Zealand's National Radio and Concert FM programs. Since moving to Australia in 2003, he has been active in supporting multimedia composition as an emerging art form.

John currently lives in Brisbane Australia, works as a Lecturer in Music at the Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University, and travels widely.

Colin Webber

Colin Webber is a composer and producer with a particular interest in cross-disciplinary collaborations. He has created soundtracks and scores for a wide variety of theatre, live performance and recorded multimedia. He has composed and produced a large volume of electronic and electro-acoustic music in the commercial domains.

Colin currently lives in Brisbane Australia, working as a Lecturer in Music at the Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University, while pursuing doctoral research in collaborative practice, and creativity within particular non-neurotypical individuals.