

● Concert Proposal Featuring L²Ork and Soloists

The following proposal is for an evening concert of live interactive electro-acoustic music featuring Linux Laptop Orchestra (L²Ork) and soloists. Designed and produced by exclusively undergraduate researchers, L²Ork consists of up to fifteen tightly networked, yet independently operated laptop computers running open source software (Linux, PD).

Instead of designing new instruments, L²Ork's focus is on perfecting use of existing technologies within a context of a standardized ensemble. Consequently, what arguably sets L²Ork apart from a growing number of laptop orchestras is its focus on physical presence and performance practice, consistent exploration of coupling traditional instruments with contemporary technology, and tight integration of networked data streams that fundamentally alter the orchestra's properties and consequently sound. The performance choreography borrows cues from Taiji and other Martial Arts and captures the ensuing motion data through the use of Nintendo Wiimote controllers.

L²Ork has been conceived to provide optimal efficiency at a minimum cost. Each laptop computer utilizes a custom hand-built hemispherical speaker to create a location-aware presence of sound for each performer. Some of the compositions in the Laptop Orchestra's unique repertoire seamlessly integrate solo acoustic instruments such as percussion, Shona Mbira, voice (both singing and spoken word), etc. In this regard the Laptop Orchestra is integrating the oldest media of musical production (percussion and voice) with one of the newest (laptop computers) by cross-pollinating performance techniques, audio material, and processes for real-time creation of music. The standardized use of Wiimote controllers and their extensions establishes an embodied performance and visual indexing of each laptop performer's sound influenced by traditional instrumental performance gestures to control synthesized digital sound as well as captured acoustic audio samples in composed and improvised contexts. The use of improvisational elements along with shared gestures and audio content allow the real-time interactive group production of a music that transcends the technologies involved, allowing a coherent exchange of ideas and emotions between networked individuals of different abilities and experiences.

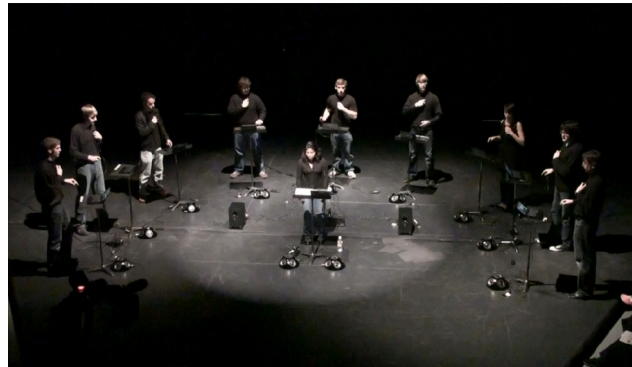


Figure 1. Typical L²Ork performance setup with ideal lighting conditions.

For additional info visit <http://l2ork.music.vt.edu>

● Notable Milestones

- L²Ork's composition *Half-Life* won first prize in the first international laptop orchestra composition competition.
- Winner of the Virginia Tech XCaliber Award.
- Feature on the front cover of the international Linux Journal magazine.

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- Interviews and coverage by TV, national Radio, newspapers, and online news sites (for details, please consult our website).
- Mentioned as part of *CDM's Biggest Music Tech Stories of 2009*.
- 2 US Tours: Midwest (Cincinnati, Indiana, Illinois), North Carolina (Durham, Winston-Salem, Greensboro).
- Performances at peer-reviewed festivals, including: IUPUI Intermedia Festival of Telematic Arts, UNCG's NMF, and SEAMUS 2011.
- Education outreach and performances with the Boys & Girls Club 5th grade students.
- 4 corporate sponsors and over dozen University Stakeholders.

● Media Materials

Audio examples:

- http://l2ork.music.vt.edu/main/audio/13_VT_April_2010_Premiere.mp3
- http://l2ork.music.vt.edu/main/audio/Citadel_SIUC_comp.mp3
- http://l2ork.music.vt.edu/main/audio/Half-Life_VT_April_2010.mp3

A short video interview with excerpts from past L2Ork concerts/tours covering basic concept behind the ensemble:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLYCdpF26fg>

Unofficial (raw/unedited) video footage from past concerts:

- http://l2ork.music.vt.edu/video/Half-Life_UC_Spring_2010_small.mp4
- http://l2ork.music.vt.edu/video/Citadel_UC_Spring_2010_small.mp4

● Technical Requirements

- 12 music stands
- 24 standard electrical outlets (4 20Amp circuits with 6 outlets each or equivalent)
- 1 standard drum set (4 drums plus requisite hardware)
- Bottled water for the ensemble
- Space for safely store equipment before, during, and after the performance
- A representative who will meet us at the point of our arrival or other prominent and easy-to-access nearby landmark and guide us to the venue and to our hotel accommodations following the concert

Ideal Performance Venue is a black box theater or a small concert hall with lighting arrangements as shown in Fig. 1.

● L²Orkists

John Elder
Hillary Guilliams

Bennett Layman
David Mudre
Steven Querry
Philip Seward
Andrew Street
Elizabeth Ullrich
Adam Wirdzek

Ivica Ico Bukvic, Director

● Soloists

Ron Coulter, percussion
Aurora Martin, soprano

● Program (in order)

Title: Serene (2011)
Composer: Ivica Ico Bukvic (1976-)
Performer(s): L2Ork ensemble

Title: Half-Life (2009,2011)
Composer: Ivica Ico Bukvic (1976-)
Performer(s): Solo Narrator (Aurora Martin) and L2Ork ensemble

Title: What's He Building (2010)
Composer: Tom Waits, arranged by Ivica Ico Bukvic (1976-) in Collaboration with Ron Coulter
Performer(s): Solo Narrator (Ron Coulter) and L2Ork ensemble

Title: Rain (2011)
Composer: Ivica Ico Bukvic (1976-)
Performers: L2Ork ensemble

Title: 13 (2010)
Composer: Ivica Ico Bukvic (1976-)
Performers: Solo Percussion (Ron Coulter) and L2Ork ensemble

Title: Citadel (2009)
Composer: Ivica Ico Bukvic (1976-)
Performers: Solo Soprano (Aurora Martin) and L2Ork ensemble

● Program Notes

Serene

...the one moment in the day when the world melts away and we catch a glimpse of life that just is... a celebration of this moment through juxtaposition of Taiji (Tai Chi Chuan) choreography and music...

Half-Life

Half-Life for solo narrator and L2Ork is a texture-based exploration of electronic percussion and its recontextualization through the use of unique opportunities inherent to the L2Ork ensemble. The ensuing soundscape draws inspiration from the writings and experiences of Elena Filatova on her solo motorcycle ride through Chernobyl's dead zone.

What's He Building

An adaptation of Tom Waits' famous work for L2Ork and narrator explores juxtaposition of concrete and digital, sound and choreography; an exercise in participatory listening; a communal experience of the American Dream gone awry.

Rain

"I've seen things you people wouldn't believe...Attack ships on fire off the shoulder of Orion... I've watched C-beams glitter in the dark near the Tannhauser Gate...All those moments will be lost in time, like tears in the rain...Time to die..."

--*Blade Runner*

13

13 is a game of prime numbers and primal instincts pitting timbre against rhythm. Driven by conductor's oversight over an array of performer-specific and ensemble-wide parameters, a networked ensemble acts as one large meta-tracker where each individual performer contributes its own gesture-driven motives or tracks. The ensuing meta-tracker texture is superimposed against improvised acoustic percussion in a search of a meaningful discourse and ultimately musical synergy.

Citadel

Citadel for soprano and L2Ork draws inspiration from a famous poem "Himna Slobodi" (Hymn to Freedom) by the 17th century Croatian poet Ivan Gundulic. As the first piece ever written for the newfound ensemble, it relies upon pervasive tonality, in many ways posing as an electronic counterpart to a traditional string ensemble. Using the infinite-bow metaphor to create lush tonal harmonies the piece forms a compelling aural foundation for a lyrical showcase of soloist's vocal talent.

Bios

L²Ork

L²Ork, founded by Dr. Ivica Ico Bukvic in May 2009, is part of the latest interdisciplinary initiative by the Virginia Tech Music Department's Digital Interactive Sound & Intermedia Studio (DISIS). As an emerging contemporary intermedia ensemble with a uniquely open design, L²Ork thrives upon the quintessential form of collaboration found in the western classical orchestra and its cross-pollination with increasingly accessible human-computer interaction technologies for the purpose of exploring expressive power of gesture, communal interaction, discipline-agnostic environment, and the multidimensionality of arts.

<http://l2ork.music.vt.edu>

Ivica Ico Bukvic

The art of composer and multisensory sculptor Ivica Ico Bukvic (b. 1976) is driven by the notion of ubiquitous interactivity. Bukvic's passion for computer music, multimedia art, and technology together with his traditional music background has resulted in a growing portfolio of aural, visual, acoustic, electronic, performances, installations, technologies, research publications, presentations, grants, and awards.

Dr. Bukvic is currently working at Virginia Tech as an assistant professor in music composition & technology, the founder and director of the Digital Interactive Sound and Intermedia Studio and the Linux Laptop Orchestra, CCTAD co-director, a member of the Center for Human-Computer Interaction.

<http://ico.bukvic.net>

Ron Coulter

Ron Coulter is currently Senior Lecturer of Percussion Studies at Southern Illinois University Carbondale and adjunct Instructor of Percussion at John A. Logan College in Carterville, IL. In 2006 Ron was invited to become an Educational Endorser with the Promark Corporation and Black Swamp Percussion.

As a composer, Ron has created more than 100 original compositions for acoustic and electro-acoustic media encompassing numerous genres. His compositions have been performed throughout the United States, Europe, South America, and Canada.

<http://www.roncoulter.org>

