Directory of Computer Assisted Research in Musicology

1987

Walter B. Hewlett Eleanor Selfridge-Field

Center for Computer Assisted Research in the Humanities

Menlo Park, CA

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Preface

The 1987 Directory of Computer Assisted Research in Musicology is significantly larger than its predecessors of 1985 and 1986. The main purpose of the Directory is to make information about current activities readily available. The Center collects technical information oriented towards academic use and reports of current and intended academic applications on an ongoing basis. Anyone engaged in an activity that seems compatible with the work reported here is invited to submit information for future inclusion. A few months before the publication of a new directory, the Center distributes a formal solicitation for contributions to everyone on its mailing list.

A great deal of academic activity related to musical research requires involvement with both text and music. We report on both these aspects of research. Because the technical challenge of dealing with musical information is so much greater than that presented by text, we include in each directory an article on some component of the complex process by which computers are increasingly being used to store and manipulate musical data. Input processes were considered in 1985. Music printing was the main topic in 1986. Ways of representing music provide the main focus of the current directory. We also continue our coverage of music printing with a provisional inventory of musical symbols desirable for critical editions of standard repertory, an update on music printing activities, a cumulative list of music encoding and printing systems and products (with a large number of illustrations), and a brief report on one effort of twenty years ago to print music by computer.

The balance of the directory consists of short news items (conferences, theses in progress, recently formed organizations and services), a log of current activities and applications, a brief dictionary of computer terminology in four languages (English, French, German, Italian), a short bibliography of recent and imminent publications of a comprehensive nature, and a series of address lists (individuals, businesses, agencies, and electronic mail users).

We are indebted to a great many contributors this year. We would like especially to extend our thanks to Stephen Dydo for compiling the inventory of musical symbols (which includes many suggestions made by respondents to one of our surveys) and for many other valuable contributions to the presentation of this directory; to Mario Baroni, Laura Callegari, Lelio Camilleri, Etienne Darbellay, and Christoph Schnell for their contributions to the four-language dictionary of computer terms; to Lelio Camilleri, Stephen Dydo, Michael Keller, Stephen Page, and Alastair Pearce for their efforts over the past year to expand our outreach; to the many software developers and other researchers who contributed examples of music printing and other illustrative materials; to all of those who contributed information about encoding systems and applications; to Jef Raskin for the photographs from his personal archives; and to Frances Bennion, Edmund Correia, Michael Flexer, and Esther Hewlett for their proofreading efforts and general assistance.

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