

STEIM - general information

STEIM, the Studio for Electro-Instrumental Music is unique among its kind because of its focus on "live" music. Activities are geared to the development of musical instruments, based on either new electronic sound sources, signal processing from existing sound sources or a combination of the two, which can be used in performance.

STEIM offers materials, facilities and other forms of support to composers of electro instrumental music.

The development of new instruments not commercially available, or the conversion of existing instruments to meet new demands are part of STEIM's daily commitments. A natural part of this development has been increasing expertise in the application of micro-electronics. An example of the micro computer systems developed at STEIM are the artificial intelligence systems which respond to both direct and instrumental control.

STEIM is, however, not a rental site for rare electronica. Equipment is custom-produced for each project. On the premises of STEIM in the center of Amsterdam are electronic and mechanical workshops, a computer workspace and two studios. In addition to strictly musical productions the facilities are available for music-theatre recordings, film soundtracks, video and stage presentation, exhibitions and all varieties of performance.

Activities at STEIM are carried out by 6 staff members. Almost all operations are made possible by government subsidies. The small team can cope with a limited number of projects only and therefore it has become necessary over the years to develop clear guidelines for the selection of new projects. Priority has been given to proposals which

- 1) emphasize the improvement of the relationship between humans and machines through the development of multi-purpose and sensitive control devices, and 2) employ computers to involve a.i. in the process of composition. Whatever the particulars of the project, the results must be made public in live presentation.

Recently STEIM became more interested in expanding its international activities. A STEIM-manifestation with concerts, lectures and an exhibition was held in Rome as part of the Estata Romana in 1984.

STEIM will contribute lectures and demonstrations at the Computer Music Conference in Vancouver next summer. In april 1985 STEIM started with the first Artist and Engineer in residence project. George Lewis and Joel Ryan are doing research in STEIM for at least one year. Their project will result in several concert productions.

In 1984 STEIM organised the STEIM SYMPOSIUM ON INTERACTIVE COMPOSING IN LIVE ELECTRONIC MUSIC. The symposium was attended by many dutch and foreign composers, progammers and technicians.

In continuation to this succes the second symposium is scheduled in november 1985. During the same period STEIM organises for the fist time an annual Amsterdam Electronic Music Festival.

Proposals for contributions to the symposium and the festival are welcome.

In Bourges STEIM presents the following projects: "The Drummachine", "Adelbrecht", "Ogenblik" and "The Hands" (which will be used in the concert performance "The Conductor" by Michel Waisvisz).

They only represent a part of the developments.

Recently STEIM is working on:

- MIDI remote controllers (analog to MIDI-converter)
- A control-signal processor that will provide real-time control by The Hands over VOSIM or CHANT generators