DroneUnknown: An experiment in embracing unpredictability in live electronic performance

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Abstract. DroneUnknown aims to explore this ambiguous space by capitalising on the unpredictability of self-modifying instruments, rather than trying to restrain it. The program runs on intunative (the author's own multitouch performance platform - formerly known as Oscar) and draws random source material from a bank of samples at initialisation-time. The player must navigate through the material live during performance and discover it as the audience does. This leads to a man-machine duel with a number of possible approaches, ranging from a tentative exploration of the programs state to much more aggressive journeys.

The presentation will feature a discussion of the gestural tools available to the performer and conclude with a live demonstration of DroneUnknown. Further information on the performance software can be found at intunative.com.