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'Musicking' Musicking: Revealing the musicality of apparently straightforward musical practices

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'MUSICKING' MUSICKING:
REVEALING THE MUSICALITY OF APPARENTLY STRAIGHTFORWARD MUSICAL PRACTICES

MARC CODINA CONTIJOCH

A thesis submitted to the University of Huddersfield
in partial fulfilment of the requirements for
the degree of Master of Arts by Research

The University of Huddersfield
September 2014

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Abstract:

This submission comprises my recent compositions and accompanying writings, which depict a compositional practice that redirects attention to the nuances of musical activities that generally remain unnoticed. My works explore the impact of miniature durations upon form, the musical decisions behind score cosmetics, and listening as a creative practice.

The portfolio predominantly consists of compositions gathered in series, ranging from music that calls for microscopic care, to music for imagined sound, to alternative listening modes for concert situations.

The associated writings contextualise and reflect upon this approach to music making by reviewing literature on auditory morphogenesis (J. Tenney, A. Bregman, B. Snyder), non-traditional notation (C. Cardew, C. Wolff, E. Tufte), and on music as a network of activities (H. Brün, T. Coffey, C. Small).

Introduction:

This submission consists of [1] an interactive web application containing all the writings and portfolio, [2] scores in paper format, [3] a link to the actual code of the web application.

The web application exists both as the core of my masters submission and as my current website, and so it acts as a context [one of the main ones] through which people can interact with my music and aesthetics.

According to Ted Coffey's concept of Transmissive Network, the domains that define the transmission of an artwork are capable of projecting meaning to receivers. In this regard, the application projects certain ways [practices?] to navigate my work, acting as an active part of it rather than as a mere neutral container.

These are the main design ideas considered during its development:

- *Time/Depth versatility for the writings:* the application offers text length options in an attempt to provide different 'depths' or 'time scales' to the user. Hence, one may navigate the overall content in only 15 minutes or spend the same time with only one text.

- *Pieces* | *Writings* | *Influences:* the application intends to establish a non-hierarchical relationship between its diverse components.

- *Whole over Parts:* the interface incorporates a network navigator whose main aim is to stimulate the sense of whole by highlighting the relationships between nodes.

- *Portability:* a website offers a great availability. Moreover, the application incorporates principles of responsive web design (RWD), which makes it appropriate for its use across desktop and mobile devices.

Links:

- Main framework: http://network.marccodina.com

- Statistics & Bibliography: http://network.marccodina.com/utilities/

- Code: https://github.com/MarcCodina/Network-Web-Application