

Experimenting with Musical Improvisation



David
Borgo
Professor, Music

CURRENT RESEARCH

Investigating interaction in performance

Music can reveal valuable information about human culture, cognition, and consciousness. Dr. Borgo, Professor of Music at the University of California, San Diego, works as a performer, improviser, composer and researcher to shed new light on how creativity is fundamentally shared between, and spread across, persons, things, places and times. He is particularly interested in technologically mediated live musical performance, but he also researches other uses of new technology that offer immersive, intense, and deeply personal engagements with sound.

A particular joy of musical improvisation is not knowing precisely the relationship between one's thoughts and one's actions (one has to surprise oneself, after all) and between one's actions and the actions of other improvisers (did you do that because I did that, or did I do that because you did that?). Improvising in electroacoustic situations can heighten the joy (by extending one's musical resources and horizons) and the complexity of the situation (by introducing additional technological actors and agency). Dr. Borgo's research explores interactive strategies and emergent phenomena in musical improvisation through experiential, qualitative, and comparative analytics, while also insisting on ecological and contextual sensitivity towards the cultural and discursive practices involved.

As we continue to integrate and hybridize our artistic expressions in the age of computation, we have the opportunity to learn more about the distinctness of human creativity as it interfaces with computational "artificial intelligence." Dr. Borgo's research expands the frame we use to describe music by challenging the conventional notions of what music should sound like...

[Read More at benefunder.com/](#)

AFFILIATION

 University of California, San Diego

EDUCATION

- M.A. and Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology 1999, University of California, Los Angeles
- B.M. in Jazz Performance 1990, Indiana University

AWARDS

- Kronomorfic: Entangled, 2014
- Kronomorfic: Micro Temporal Infundibula, 2011
- Alan P. Merriam Prize, Continuum, 2005
- First Prize at the John Coltrane Festival, 1994

RESEARCH AREAS

Humanities, Music

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support Dr. Borgo's research by facilitating the development of electroacoustic interfaces, compositions, and artistic collaborations, as well as his ongoing documentation of artistic communities exploring similar domains. Dr. Borgo would like to author a second book highlighting his recent research and to expand his cross-cultural investigations into musical improvisation and interaction, with the ultimate goal of producing a documentary film and accompanying materials.