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Johnty Wang

Curriculum Vitae

Education

- 2009–2012 **University of British Columbia, MAsc in Electrical and Computer Engineering.**
Thesis title: Investigation of Gesture Control for Articulatory Speech Synthesis with a Bio-mechanical Mapping Layer
My thesis work involved the development of a gesture controlled speech and singing synthesizer used for musical performance. In order to improve the quality of synthesis, a force activated bio-mechanical mapping layer was implemented to drive an articulatory synthesizer, and the results were and compared with the existing mapping and synthesis system from both the performer and listener perspective. The results show that adding a complex, dynamic bio-mechanical mapping layer introduces more difficulty but allows a greater degree of expression to the performer that is consistent with existing work in the literature. To the novice listener, there is no significant difference in the intelligibility of the sound or the perceived quality.
Alongside the primary research, I worked with collaborators in moving gesture controlled singing synthesis to the mobile-phone space and founded Vox Tactum, an international group of engineers, performers and composers working together to create synthesized music centred around the chamber vocal ensemble metaphor.
Advisor: Prof. Sidney Fels ssfels@ece.ubc.ca (ECE)
Co-supervisors: Prof. Robert Pritchard, bob@mail.ubc.ca (School of Music), and Dr Nicolas d'Alessandro nicolas@dalessandro.be, (Project Lead/Visiting Researcher)
- 2003–2008 **University of British Columbia, BASc in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Minor in Commerce.**

Publications

Refereed Conference Proceedings

Johnty Wang, Nicolas d'Alessandro, Aura Pon and Sidney Fels, 2013. "*PENny: An Extremely Low-Cost Pressure-Sensitive Stylus for Existing Capacitive Touchscreens*". In *Proceedings of New Interfaces for Musical Expression (NIME2013)*
Short Paper/Demonstration

Johnty Wang, Nicolas d'Alessandro, Sidney Fels and Robert Pritchard, 2012. "*Investigation of Gesture Controlled Articulatory Vocal Synthesizer using a Bio-Mechanical Mapping Layer*". In *Proceedings of New Interfaces for Musical Expression (NIME2012)*
Paper Presentation

Nicolas d'Alessandro, Aura Pon, **Johnty Wang**, David Eagle, Ehud Sharlin and Sidney Fels, 2012. "*A Digital Mobile Choir: Joining Two Interfaces towards Composing and Performing Collaborative Mobile Music*". In *Proceedings of New Interfaces for Musical Expression (NIME2012)*
Short Paper/Demonstration

Johnty Wang, Vincent Tsao, Sidney Fels and Benny Chan, 2011. "Tippy the Teleconference Robot". In *Proceedings of the 10th international conference on Entertainment Computing (ICEC2011)*
Short Paper/Demonstration

Nicolas d'Alessandro, **Johnty Wang**, Robert Pritchard and Sidney Fels, 2011. "Bringing bio-mechanical modelling of the OPAL complex as a mapping layer for performative voice synthesis". In *Proceedings of International Seminar on Speech Production (ISSP2011)*
Extended Abstract/Poster

Johnty Wang, Nicolas d'Alessandro, Robert Pritchard and Sidney Fels, 2011. "SQUEEZY: Extending a Multitouch Screen with Force Sensing Objects for Controlling Articulatory Synthesis". In *Proceedings of New Interfaces for Musical Expression (NIME2011)*
Short Paper/Demonstration

Nicolas d'Alessandro, Robert Pritchard, **Johnty Wang**, and Sidney Fels, 2011. "Ubiquitous Voice Synthesis: Interactive Manipulation of Speech and Singing on Mobile Distributed Platforms". In *Proceedings of the 2011 annual conference extended abstracts on Human factors in computing systems (CHI EA '11)*
Extended Abstract/Interactivity Demo

Robert Pritchard, Sidney Fels, Nicolas d'Alessandro, Marguerite Witvoet, **Johnty Wang**, Cameron Hassall, Helene Day-Fraser, and Meryn Cadell, 2011. "Ubiquitous Voice Synthesis: Interactive Manipulation of Speech and Singing on Mobile Distributed Platforms". In *Proceedings of the 2011 annual conference extended abstracts on Human factors in computing systems (CHI EA '11)*
Extended Abstract/Interactivity Performance

Zoltan Foley-Fisher, Vincent Tsao, **Johnty Wang** and Sidney Fels, 2010. "NetPot: easy meal enjoyment for distant diners". In *Proceedings of the 9th international conference on Entertainment Computing (ICEC2010)*
Paper Presentation

Concerts and Performances

Aura Pon, Nicolas d'Alessandro and **Johnty Wang**, 2012. Aura Pon - *Concordia Discors*, for Mixed Phase Synthesis and Mobile Phone Choir. *International Computer Music Conference (ICMC2012)*, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Aura Pon, Nicolas d'Alessandro **Johnty Wang** and Martin Ritter, 2012. Aura Pon - *Intertwine*, for Vuzik and Mobile Phone Choir. *Sonic Boom Festival*, Vancouver, Canada.

Aura Pon, Nicolas d'Alessandro, **Johnty Wang** and Antoine Maisonhaute, 2012. Aura Pon - *Intertwine*, for Vuzik and Mobile Phone Choir. *Audio Mostly 2012*, Corfu, Greece.

Nicolas d'Alessandro and **Johnty Wang**, 2011. *Errances*, Improvisation for Gesturally Controlled Synthetic Voices. *VOX concert*, Vancouver, Canada.

Aura Pon, Nicolas d'Alessandro **Johnty Wang** and Martin Ritter, 2011. Aura Pon - *Intertwine*, for Vuzik and Mobile Phone Choir. *VOX concert*, Vancouver, Canada.

Miscellaneous

Jan 2013–May 2013 **Mentorship**, Mentor for Mellon Student Artist in Residence Grant recipient developing a gesture controlled vocal effects processor for musical performance, Colorado College.

Aug 2012–Sep 2012 **Artist in Residence**, *CitySonics Festival*, City of Mons, Belgium, Designed and constructed an interactive sonic installation for the annual festival.

Feb 2012 **Finalist**, *Margaret Guthman Music Instrument Competition*, Atlanta, GA, Presented the ChoirMob+Vuzik system, mobile phone choir mediated by a large screen display.

Industry Work Experience

- Nov 2013 – present **HPlus Technology, Software Developer.**
Developing middleware suite for new media researchers working with movement and gesture. Integration of sensing devices, recognition algorithms and output modules. Cross platform integration and testing
- June 2012 – May 2013 **UBC Theatre Department, Software Developer (on contract).**
Designed and implemented a prototype stage illumination system using multiple digital projectors with visual editing capabilities, cue management and MIDI/DMX interface to existing lightning equipment
- May 2005–Aug 2005 **Electronic Arts Canada, Co-op Software Developer.**
Developed an XML based audio game asset management system
- May 2004–Dec 2004 **Harman/Becker Automotive Systems/Wavemakers, Co-op Software Developer.**
Designed, implemented and tested a multiple waveform viewing and analysis application for speech synthesis and recognition research (C++/MFC). Integrated in-house DSP tools into application to allow processing and analysis of audio samples

Other

Professional Musical Experience

- Jan 2011 - Aug 2011 Theatre Under the Stars (Musical Production): Singing in the Rain. Rehearsal Pianist
- May 2011 - Aug 2011 Theatre Under the Stars (Musical Production): Singing in the Rain (Pit Musician: Piano and Synth
- May 2010 - Aug 2010 Theatre Under the Stars (Musical Production): Annie. (Pit Musician: Auxiliary Percussion and Synth
- 2003 - present Ryerson United Church Chancel Choir: Baritone; Piano/organ accompanist
- 2003 - 2005 Private Piano Teacher: taught students up to RCM grade 5

Amateur Musical Experience

- 2010 - 2011 West Coast Symphony Orchestra (Percussion)
- 2003 - 2005 UBC Symphonic Wind Ensemble (Percussion)