

School children from San Diego County will have first-hand experience learning how to use L'UPIC, a french computer which allows the user to draw a musical composition

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L'UPIC, THE FRENCH COMPUTER WHICH ALLOWS THE USER TO DRAW A MUSICAL COMPOSITION, WILL BE USED AT THE CENTER FOR MUSIC EXPERIMENT FOR A TWO-WEEK EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

School children from San Diego County will have a first-hand experience learning how to compose modern music on a computer which allows them to "draw" their compositions and hear them played back within minutes.

Students from Baker Elementary School and the San Diego Children's Museum will take part in a six-day seminar from Oct. 10-16 at the Center for Music Experiment at the University of California, San Diego, learning how to compose music on UPIC, an electronic device which permits the user to create music by drawing on a screen with an electronic pen. The complex set of computers can delay the play back or play the composition to the creator at the same time he or she is drawing on the screen.

Greek composer and architect Iannis Xenakis conceived of the idea in 1953, after he had trouble finding a way to notate a modern music orchestral script that was first composed graphically.

In 1966 Xenakis formed EMAMu, The School of Mathematic and Automatic Music, which later evolved into CEMAMu, the Centre d'Etudes de Mathematique et Automatique Musicales, in France.

Twenty-five years later, technology and computer science allowed Xenakis to realize his dream, and he is now director of CEMAMu.

On Oct. 11, Ateliers UPIC president Francois-Bernard Mache will give a lecture on UPIC and its origins. Mache is a musicologist and composer, and is an expert in early 19th century music. He is also an expert in Greek archaeology.

On Oct. 12 at 8 p.m. there will be a UPIC demonstration for San Diego County high school students. The event is free.

On Oct. 15 there will be an all-day composition seminar at CME. The seminar will be for UCSD undergraduate and graduate music students and members of the public. Reservations are required.

There will be a UPIC concert on Oct. 19 at the Center for Music Experiment at 8 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public.

On Oct. 18 at 6:30 p.m. there will be a recital demonstrating the compositions made by the Baker Elementary School children, in the Center for Music Experiment. At 8 p.m. there will be a second lecture by Mache.

This is the first time UPIC has been demonstrated in the United States. The two-week residency at UCSD will be followed by demonstrations in Mexico and countries in Europe, before returning to France.

On October 19 at 4 p.m. Salvatore Martirano, a noted composer and inventor, will demonstrate his robotic music system at CME for a group of elementary school children involved in an after-school program with the North Coast Family YMCA.

For additional information, telephone the Center for Music Experiment, 534-4383.

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