

UCSD's Center For Research in Computing and the Arts will release a compact disc of intercultural computer music in April

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UCSD'S CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN COMPUTING AND THE ARTS

TO RELEASE COMPACT DISC OF INTERCULTURAL COMPUTER MUSIC

A compact disc of high technology computer music, created under a Rockefeller Foundation cultural exchange program by artists from new music centers in the United States and South America, will be released in April by the Center for Research in Computing and the Arts (CRCA), at the University of California, San Diego.

CRCA director and internationally known computer artist Harold Cohen said, "The release of Intercambio/Exchange is a ground-breaking effort for the program and the three centers involved. We are happy to combine the international talents of these composers and to contribute to the promotion of new computer music."

Fourteen composers from three research centers were involved in the international residency and exchange program that produced the compact disc, including CRCA; the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA) at Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA; and the Laboratorio de Investigacion y Produccion Musical (LIPM), in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

One of the principal investigators on the program, F. Richard Moore of CRCA, said, "The Intercambio/Exchange compact disc presents works that are the result of composers working directly with the latest electronic technologies. Computer music as it exists in research environments is extremely diverse," he said.

With a leaning towards direct digital synthesis, the material on the compact disc includes works of computer-generated tape, tape and instruments combined, and presentations of real-time performances. More than half of the works on the compact disc were written in a UNIX environment using the computer program cmusic, an acoustic compiler developed by Moore; and a Moore-designed phase vocoder derived from CRCA's Computer Audio Research Laboratory (CARL). The CARL software package has been commercially available since 1980, and has been distributed worldwide.

"One of the greatest features of this recording project, which took place under the direct technical supervision of the composers, was the coming together of remarkable technical and aesthetic talents," Moore said.

The international residency and exchange program for the composition of new computer music, as funded by the Rockefeller grant, is intent on expanding the network of music and technology centers within Latin America.

"Technologists and musicians at universities and research centers in Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela presently will be participants in similar programs. It is the goal of CRCA, CCRMA and LIPM to bring a new music and technological standard to existing centers worldwide," Moore said.

Original art for the compact disc's packaging insert was generated by AARON, Cohen's autonomous art-making computer program that sends its "orders" to a mechanized drawing-table. Cohen's computer art has been exhibited in museums and galleries worldwide.

CRCA is a UCSD Organized Research Unit, formerly known as the Center for Music Experiment (CME). CRCA, as it is known today, was founded in 1991 with the intention of providing a research environment for the exploration of issues pertaining to computing and the arts, including the visual arts, music, literary arts, architecture and other creative expressions.

Research results are made available through public presentation and concerts, and through periodic publications. CRCA is located on the UCSD campus. For information call (619) 534-4383.

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