

Music without Walls? Music without Instruments?
– A word of welcome

A loaded title? A title that excludes things? A search for controversy? Not necessarily.

This conference, the first hosted by the Music, Technology and Innovation Research Group at De Montfort University in Leicester, UK, is one investigating vision, new opportunities, opportunities for renewal. It intends to look forward into many areas in music that are experiencing significant development, primarily due to new applications of technology.

Well over one hundred proposals were received in January based on our call for papers, primarily distributed via the internet. What was most exciting about the proposals was the diversity of subject area and the interest in innovation. Many sonic artists have taken the opportunity to present their work within the framework of looking forward.

We hope you will experience three days of food for thought, debate and be presented with the opportunity to meet new soul mates interested in where music in its diversity is moving, how it will be made, shared and appreciated in the future, where it will take place. The two questions in the conference title were chosen to look beyond the concert hall and our traditional instrumentarium. Neither is about to be replaced, but the musical map is nevertheless changing quickly.

In short, have a good think. Have a good time. Hopefully this look into the future will pave the way to more events of the type. Our programme is quite intense, but we hope you will also be able to enjoy the flavour of what Leicester and the East Midlands has to offer.

I would like to thank the entire Research Group for their support during these last few months. In particular thanks are due to Andy Hugill who has been my main advisor and to Martin Sheil who has kept his eye on equipment needs as well as the link to the Phoenix Arts Centre.

Thanks are due to Cambridge University Press and Studiocare (Liverpool) for supporting this event as well as De Montfort Commercial Partnerships who have participated in administering of this event. Finally, we are pleased that the association with the neighbouring Phoenix Arts Centre has been made possible for, in our view, such education/culture partnerships are the ideal way.

Leigh Landy (llandy@dmu.ac.uk) on behalf of the Music, Technology and Innovation Research Group