

Multimedia and Sound Interest Group

SMT 2013 – Charlotte, NC
Saturday, November 2, 5:30-7:30pm

Introduction

Juan Chattah (Chair) welcomes participants, introduces the Film and Multimedia Interest Group (to be later renamed), and solicits introductions and short descriptions of research activities from those present.

-37 individuals in attendance.

-Demographically, group includes scholars at many stages in their careers, inc. grad students, jr. and sr. faculty, and independent scholars.

-Interests and activities range wildly, with significant numbers involved in research in film music studies, video game studies, and more generally, multimedia studies. Also includes participants with background or interest in cognition/psychology, composition, narrative, disability studies, and sound studies.

Business

Issue 1: Collaboration: Interest groups have license to collaborate with each other in both formal (shared workshops/sessions) and informal ways (sharing resources, helping with logistics). Deadline for formal collaboration approaching quickly.

-Several suggestions of productive sites for collaboration made, including with Women & Diversity Committees, Queer Resource Group, and Pedagogy and Disability IGs. Consensus that productive overlap with all these groups exists, and invitation to participants active in both this group and those mentioned reach out to suggest connections.

Issue 2: Sessions: Dovetailing with previous discussion, the question of how and when to organize special session(s). Film music panel proposal already in works for SMT 2014, but no reason other non-overlapping sessions couldn't be spearheaded by group members in next month or so (or in general)

-Well-received recommendation to formulate some kind of interactive poster session for VG-music research, allowing attendees to experience very specific moments in games in first person way. Could even be turned into a live "experiment" if participant action/reactions are (voluntarily) monitored.

Issue 3: Online Score Resource: A proposal is made for an online resource for uploading/downloading otherwise tricky to obtain sheet music and/or audio from FM/VG corpora. An "IMSLP" for multimedia music. Though without a precedent, should not be too difficult to construct such a site with open source resources available. Should be authoritative, not a repository for questionable or ad hoc transcriptions.

-Comes with obvious potential rights issues, though in some cases (apparently increasing), composers themselves own rights to (particularly VG) scores and can distribute as they choose.

-Incentivization through some sort of "store model" that provides composers with money if they request it. (Or hybrid model in which some scores are free, others are available for nominal fee).

-Recommendation to contact SMT Legal Advisor on how to proceed.

Issue 4: IG Listserv/Webpage

- Sean Atkinson presents how IG web resources generally function, with a page offering some mostly static materials and summary or meetings. Traditional listservs are an increasingly outdated model of communication in light of things like Google webhosting/groups resources, which can emulate listserv while also featuring uploadability.
- General agreement that such a group should be unrestricted, open to any who are interested, not a private or elite community.

Issue 5: Group Name: Cases from various participants are made for changing the name of group from “Film Music and Multimedia IG” to something that perhaps better reflects the diversity of research areas represented. Proposals include

Film and Media IG; Film and Interactive Media IG; Sound, Film, and Media IG; Multimedia and Sound IG; Media and Sound; Sound and Multimedia IG

Open Discussion

- Case against music: Implicit that as an SMT group, music is part of the equation
- Case against film music: Contained within umbrella of multimedia
- Case for film music: Significant number of present scholars involved in some way. Like VG music, traditionally underrepresented at SMT.
- Case for sound: broadening of appeal of IG to Sound Studies scholars.
- Case against sound: Extremely broad/vague. Discourages participation from scholars of deaf musical multimedia cultures, and might dilute group’s specificity if very large field of Sound Studies becomes a part of it.
- Ordering and acronym-ability also discussed as consideration for new name.

Vote: Final options are *Sound and Multimedia Interest Group* (SaMIG) vs. *Multimedia and Sound Interest Group* (MaSIG), after apparent consensus (but no actual vote) that current name is unsatisfactory. Winner is **MaSIG**.

Issue 6: Governance

Juan Chattah explains need for rotating chair with some element of overlap between administrations for continuity.

- General agreement that 3 years will be length of Chair’s service, with group creator Chattah as *de facto* first Chair.

Issue 7: Annotated Bibliography

Frank Lehman presents idea of a bibliography as a relatively easy to do early initiative for IG. Could take various forms, as simple list of sources, a moderately annotated bibliography, or a more substantial article-length overview of current literature. Given group’s youth, recommends starting with the simplest option and building up to more elaborate bib’s as time goes on.

- Proposal for an online wiki bibliography to encourage many people to share their sources met with approval. Julianne Grasso and Lehman agree to help set up once our web-presence is more worked out.

Issue 8: Open Peer Review Articles

Chris Schafer introduces idea of open peer-review. MTO Forum on Thursday discussed possibility of incorporating an open-peer review model on a trial basis for MTO. Though met with both enthusiasm and

skepticism, could be a useful way for our IG to make a contribution as an auxiliary initiative run by MTO staff. Could thereby be at forefront of more novel, digital methods of scholarship.

-Numerous advantages foreseeable with such a project, not so many obvious drawbacks. David Neumeier assents to running idea by powers that be.

Issue 9: Awards

Many IGs give awards for publications, both to sr. and jr. scholars. Idea is tabled until we have more of an established membership.

Issue 10: Starting Dialogue

Discussion of various ways to reach out to preexisting groups, research areas, and/or musical practitioners.

-Idea of reaching out to professional composers. Particularly attractive prospect is bringing a scholar/composer to SMT to present, though suggestion is made that if person is prestigious or interesting enough, may be better to include in a proper session for wider accessibility and impact.

-Video conference through various online resources could widen viewership for any such event.

-Suggestion to reach out to comparable group(s) at AMS, which Steven Reale discovers do not exist. We got there first, apparently!

-Juan Chattah will reach out to organizers of MAMI conference in NY.

-Various other research areas that could positively contribute include Gesture & Embodiment, Topic Theory, and Semiotics.

Issue 11: Copyright Task Force: Copyright and accessibility an issue we all face at some time. We are often at whim of either creators/owners or publishers and their respective attitudes towards fair use.

-SMT has expert on this sort of thing, will be consulted.