

*Project title:* Exploring the Semantics of “Timbre-Textures” with Granular Synthesis

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*Abstract:* We are studying meanings listeners associate with musical sounds in contemporary music. In previous studies, participants rated excerpts of contemporary music on semantic scales. In the present study, we invert the task: participants produce their own musical sounds in response to semantic prompts, using a Max patch. They position cursors on 2D surfaces to modify inharmonicity, pitch ambitus, central pitch height, and attack density, emulating the soundworlds of sound mass and granular synthesis composers (e.g., Ligeti, Xenakis, Truax). We seek funding to pay participants and hire RAs (who will be CIRMMT students) to run subjects and help with statistical analysis.

*Keywords:* musical semantics, music perception, sound synthesis, granular synthesis, contemporary music

- For what purpose exactly did you use your funds? (e.g., to pay an RA student to collect data, to purchase some equipment, etc.)

We used our funds to pay an RA student to recruit participants and collect data, and to pay participants for participating in the experiment.

- Was the main goal of your project achieved?

Yes. We have collected data from enough participants (20) to proceed to the initial analysis phase. If additional data is required for statistical reasons, we have secured access to additional funding for this.

- Did you achieve additional specific outcomes that you did not originally foresee?

As the data analysis is not yet complete, we are not yet in a position to assess additional specific outcomes.

- Did you achieve any beneficial outcomes for CIRMMT and its community (e.g. media hits, publications, grant applications, etc.)?

Our project was presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Timbre (Thessaloniki, Greece, 2023). Researcher Jason Noble secured a research chair position (Chaire de recherche stratégique en création musicale multimédia et électroacoustique) at Université de Moncton; this project was highlighted in the proposal, and will be continued in that context until the analysis is complete, the results are published, and the knowledge thereby gained is put into compositional practice.