

The Search for Excellence in Multi-Disciplinary Research; Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology is awarded top research grant in Quebec

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Imagine a space in which the most progressive research in music, engineering, psychology, math, neuroscience, philosophy, history, and physiology combine. Picture a facility in which engineers, scientists, and musicians collaborate to better understand the effects of musical patterns on neurological conditions and recreate the acoustics of a Viennese concert hall from the 18th century. Where could such a revolutionary space flourish? To find the research centre on the forefront of this dynamic and collaborative movement, one need look no further than here in Montreal, Quebec.

CIRMMT & INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

Over the last few decades, interdisciplinary research involving music and sound has become increasingly important, with specialists in multiple fields combining their expertise in the service of both speculative science and everyday life. If you have ever played a motion-sensor videogame, discovered your new favourite band thanks to a suggestion by your streaming service, or marveled at the immersive presence of a cinema's audio system, you have felt the potential of interdisciplinary research.

The Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology (CIRMMT) is a multi-disciplinary research group centred at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University. CIRMMT unites researchers and their students from several Quebec institutions – McGill University, l'Université de Montréal, l'Université de Sherbrooke, Concordia University, École de technologie supérieure, INRS, and Marianopolis College. CIRMMT also occupies a unique position on the international stage through intense research partnerships with other academic and research institutions, as well as with industry partners around the world. Leading the field in progressive research on the science and technology of music, CIRMMT has been rated A+ in the last two cycles for major competitive provincial funding by the Fonds de Recherche du Québec sur la Société et la Culture (FRQSC).

CIRMMT has been responsible for significant advances in this multi-disciplinary research, with examples of member projects including the development of instruments that can be used inside fMRI machines, and improvements to audio engineering – the type of technology that allows listeners to immerse themselves into an audio recording as if they were transported into the room of the performer. Another group of CIRMMT members recently measured the noise of different models of aircraft flying through Pierre Elliot Trudeau Airport, and last year a group of musicians and dancers toured throughout North America and Europe with instruments developed at CIRMMT that are controlled by the gestures of dancers.

CIRMMT plays an important role in the public dissemination of research by presenting the Distinguished Lecture series free to the public, providing at-cost tickets to the revolutionary live@CIRMMT concert series, and hosting multiple conferences, colloquia, and workshops. These activities bring outstanding researchers and performers to Montreal from around the world to present their work combining technology, science, and music. To maximize their dissemination, CIRMMT provides free access to high-quality audio/visual recordings of the lectures via the CIRMMT website. CIRMMT is also delighted to contribute to interest in music research through outreach programs in area schools.

TOP FUNDING FOR A TOP RESEARCH CENTRE

The work being completed through CIRMMT was recently endorsed yet again with the announcement by the FRQSC that the Centre's application for renewal funding was evaluated with remarkably strong assessments.

The ratings achieved by the Centre were overwhelmingly high, with A+ marks in six areas, and an A in the final area, earning CIRMMT an A+ rating overall. This rating marks the second time that CIRMMT was awarded the sole A+ rating out of all centres applying for FRQSC funding. This impressive track record of successful funding not only demonstrates that CIRMMT continues to be the leading FRQSC-funded research centre in Quebec, it also speaks to the caliber of CIRMMT and its exemplary member researchers, whose work epitomizes interdisciplinary research and its potential.

According to the evaluation report received from the FRQSC, "The committee felt that the centre in many ways exceeded the standards expected in this contest of excellence with regard to all criteria, and were keen to emphasize the exceptional nature of this application. No weakness or fault has appeared as needing to be highlighted in the centre."

This renewal of funding will allow CIRMMT to continue the ground-breaking work of its researchers and students, and to expand the scope of the Centre's public and outreach events. This positive feedback, in conjunction with significant funding for the next six years, will support the continuation of interdisciplinary collaboration in Montreal, Quebec.

CONTACT AND MORE INFORMATION

More about all of CIRMMT's endeavors can be found on the CIRMMT website, where information regarding our research membership, artistic research output, and upcoming events are updated frequently. For any questions, please contact <info@cirmmt.mcgill.ca>.



[2014 CIRMMT Student Symposium; Preston Beebe and Ian Hattwick]



[Sixtrum Percussion; live@CIRMMT concert]



[Carolina Brum Medeiros; motion-capture session]



[Mario Bertoncini; live@CIRMMT concert]