

Musica ex Machina symposium: Encounters between art and science

20 September 2024

EPFL Pavilions, Lausanne, Switzerland

08:00–09:00

Guided Tour of the exhibition *Musica ex Machina*
in Pavilion B (optional)

09:00–09:30

Welcome in Pavilion A, refreshments

09:30–9:45

Introduction by the curators

09:45–12.00

Theme 1

The Algorithmic (in music)

This theme examines the historical and contemporary use of algorithms in music composition and performance. Historically, composers have used algorithmic thinking to create complex polyphonic structures and systematic approaches to musical composition and sound synthesis. Today, algorithms enable composers to generate music and sounds that push the boundaries of traditional forms, leading to innovative and dynamic compositions. This session will explore the evolution of algorithmic techniques and their impact on the creative process in music.

Moderator

Martin Rohrmeier

Speakers

Alexandra Cárdenas | Fabrice Fitch
Peter Hoffmann | Miller Puckette
Richard Widdess | Markus Roth

12:00–13:30

Lunch

12:30–13:30

Guided Tour of the exhibition *Musica ex Machina*
in Pavilion B (optional)

13:30–15:30

Theme 2

The Artificial (applications of AI in Music)

Focusing on the application of artificial intelligence in music, this theme addresses how AI technologies are transforming music; its creation, performance, and analysis. From AI-generated compositions to intelligent music systems that interact with performers in real-time, this session will highlight the multi-faced and cutting-edge developments in AI and their implications for musicians and audiences. Discussions will cover both the technical aspects and the broader cultural and ethical considerations of AI in music.

Moderator

Paul Doornbusch

Speakers

George Lewis | Laetitia Sonami | Bob Sturm
Roberto Alonso Trillo | François Pachet

15:30–16:00

Break

16:00–17:30

Theme 3

The New Atlantis (imagining the future)

Looking forward, this theme invites participants to envision the future of music shaped by algorithmic thinking and AI. Drawing inspiration from historical utopian visions like Francis Bacon's *New Atlantis*, this session will explore how emerging technologies might further revolutionise music. Topics include the potential for new forms of musical expression, the integration of advanced AI in composition and performance, and the societal impacts of these innovations. This forward-thinking discussion aims to chart the course for the next frontier in music.

Moderator

Jonathan Impett

Speakers

Jennifer Walshe | Marek Poliks

Followed by a round table with all speakers

17:30–19:00

Apero in Pavilion A

18:00–19:00

Guided Tour of the exhibition *Musica ex Machina*
in Pavilion B (optional)

19:30–21:30

Concert in SG Foyer

With

Jennifer Walshe
performing *A late Anthology of Early Music,*
Vol.1: Ancient to Renaissance

Magda Mayas

performing George Lewis' *Voyager*

Free admission

Upon registration

→ Registration

Map of EPFL

→ Pavilion A

→ Pavilion B

→ SG Foyer