Music 253/CS 275A Musical Information: An Introduction
Stanford University Winter Quarter
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Music 253: Take-home **Final Essays**

This exam consists of two questions—No. 1 plus No. 2, 3, or 4.

Due date: Friday, March 23, 2007, by 11 p.m. Pacific Time.

I would appreciate having a printed copy of your responses for my files, but you may submit the material in the first instance electronically and let me know when you can send printed copy.

Musical Information: Sound, Notation, and Analysis

Please preface each essay with the question to which you are responding. Answer only two questions. Item starred (*) is required.

Essay 1 (1000-2000 words or 4-8 pp.):

*1. Discuss the (hypothetical) **encoding of melodic material** in a repertory with which you are familiar (for example, music for piano, guitar, orchestra, chamber music, band) **for (a) notation, (b) sound, and (c) analytical applications**. What problems could be encountered in this repertory for each of the three domains? To what extent are the problems solvable?

Essay 2 (400-600 words, or 1.5-2 pages). Answer **one** of the following:

2. Select one domain of musical information (sound, graphics, analytical or "logical" data). Which **attributes** of musical information are usually required to manipulate data in this domain? How do the requirements of this domain differ from those of other domains? (To make this tangible, you could relate it to the kind of music you discussed in No. 1).

OR

3. Discuss the difficulties that might be encountered in making **melodic searches** based on data available in the MIDI, *SCORE*, and *Humdrum* formats. Which attributes are searchable in each? How important are each of these to the data you discussed in #1? [Omit any portions of the class you did not take.]

OR

4. Discuss the difficulties that might be encountered in making an **interchange code** based on data available in the MIDI, SCORE, and Humdrum formats. Which attributes are unique to each? How important are each of these to the data you discussed in #1? [Omit any portions of the class you did not take.]

Please provide well organized material. You may include musical examples or other documentation of your points, or you can put a scanned image of a representative page of music at a URL where I can see it. (If posting, please give an explicit link address.)

Please send by email (or send link to your website) to *esfield@stanford.edu*