

Sensational collaboration to create Robot Music

World famous remix musician Funkstar Deluxe and world famous roboticist Professor Henrik Hautop Lund joins forces to create Robot Music.

Can robots be creative and play music? Well, maybe not all by themselves, but with the help of world famous musicians it becomes a reality with RoboMusic.

A sensational collaboration between two world famous people in remix music and robotics has created a revolutionising genre of music called RoboMusic by using robotic instruments. Together with world famous roboticist professor Henrik Hautop Lund, Funkstar Deluxe has created his new album No Man's Planet using robotic devices created in collaboration with the roboticist and his team. The instruments used to play the music are developed by robotics and include interactive mats that measure touch and rolling pins that measure rotational acceleration. Such features as pressure and rotational acceleration of the instruments are used to create variations in resonance, cut-off, volume and pan of musical tracks in the musical composition.

In RoboMusic, the artistic and technological challenge of the music artist is to compose baseline behaviour of the robotic instruments and compose the behavioural response to interaction by human musicians. The robotic instruments have a baseline musical behaviour, which is changed upon interaction with the instrument. The music artist is transformed from a composer of static music tunes to a developer of robot behaviours – behaviours that are expressed by the robotic system as music pieces. Very much like in the robot development work in professors Henrik Hautop Lund's team when they are building other behaviour-based robots such as the shape-shifting ATRON robots and the Playware robotic playgrounds by creating robotic behaviours – the difference being that in RoboMusic the behaviours are concerning musical behaviours rather than more traditional robotic actuation in classical behaviour-based robotics.

The most revolutionising aspect of this new musical genre may well be that it allows live concerts to become interactive for the audience. The audience is invited to interact with the robotic instruments and are actively engaged in the performance of the music of their concert. Their interaction with the robotic instruments guides the robotic behaviour and thereby creates unique live concert performances that change from concert to concert depending on the behaviour of the audience. Each RoboMusic concert is a unique live performance! The music artist has composed the baseline, and the audience is manipulating the robotic instruments to allow the robotic behaviour to change, and thereby the music tune to diverge. For the audience, the concert form has changed from passive listening to active participation in playing the concert.

The new musical genre is defined in the manifest, RoboMusic Paradigm, signed by Funkstar Deluxe and Professor Henrik Hautop Lund. (Attached).

The inauguration concert of Funkstar Deluxe's new album in collaboration with professor Henrik Hautop Lund will take place as an interactive RoboMusic concert during the Robots at Play Festival on 15th September 2006 in Odense, Denmark: www.robotsatplay.dk

Funkstar Deluxe (Martin Ottesen) became world famous for his remix of Bob Marley's Sun Is Shining. The remix sold more than one million copies and won several awards including a World Music Award for the best-selling reggae single of 2000. Besides releasing two albums resulting in several gold plates Funkstar Deluxe has been touring most of the world performing as a DJ and musician. The list of artists remixed is long and includes Grace Jones, Bob Dylan, Mary J Blige and Barry White to name a few. With a characteristic touch in his remixes and original songs Funkstar Deluxe's influence on electronic dance music is significant. With his new album No Man's Planet he continues to push back boundaries of creating and performing electronic music.

Professor Henrik Hautop Lund is world famous for his work in robotics and modern artificial intelligence. His team developed the ATRON shape-shifting robots, which he presented to the emperor of Japan, HM Queen of Denmark, etc. His team has developed playware with the novel intelligent playgrounds, and has won the RoboCup Humanoids Free Style World Championship 2002. Professor Henrik Hautop Lund is engaged also in the development of intelligent artefacts, I-BLOCKS, for the teaching of creativity in Africa, where his team were one of the driving forces behind the first science park in East Africa in Iringa, Tanzania. He is member of the Danish national research council, and numerous international committees. He has produced more than 100 scientific publications in robotics and modern artificial intelligence.

Contact:

Funkstar Deluxe: funkstar@funkstardeluxe.com – Prof. Henrik Hautop Lund: hhl@mip.sdu.dk tel:+45 6550 3574