

Computer Science Department
Carnegie Mellon University
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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213-3891

November 8, 2002

Professor Charles F. Zukoski
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
420 Swanlund Administration Building, MC-304
601 East John Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820

Dear Professor Zukoski:

I am writing to express my support for the project "Creation of a Music Information Retrieval (MIR) Development and Testing Database." I am working with Professor William Birmingham at the University of Michigan on an NSF-funded on music information retrieval. The researchers at Carnegie Mellon University include a post-doc, grad student, and undergraduates in the School of Computer Science. There is great interest here in Music Information Retrieval. It has ties to fields of data mining, database systems, audio signal processing, machine learning, analysis of time sequence data, e-commerce, human computer interaction (HCI) and entertainment technology.

An important topic of discussion at every professional meeting of MIR researchers is the problem of databases for experimentation. To a large extent, other disciplines have led the way by demonstrating the value of shared repositories of large datasets for developing and evaluating new techniques for data analysis and retrieval. As MIR is a relatively new area, the formation of a music repository for the experimental community is critical for progress in the area. The Naxos collection can become the most important database for MIR research. The data is "real," in that it comes from a catalog of commercial recordings, it covers an interesting breadth of music, and it is significant in size. My colleagues and I look forward to using this database.

I strongly support the project and urge you to assist in the establishment of this database. The results will certainly bring recognition to the University of Illinois and assist researchers worldwide.

Sincerely yours,

Roger B. Dannenberg
Senior Research Computer Scientist and Artist