



Fraunhofer Institut
Integrierte Schaltungen

Fraunhofer IIS-A Elektronische Medientechnologie
Am Ehrenberg 8 D-98693 Ilmenau

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

USA

Arbeitsgruppe
Elektronische Medientechnologie

Leitung
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Karlheinz Brandenburg

Am Helmholtzring 1
D-98693 Ilmenau
Telefon +49 (0) 36 77 / 69 4341
Telefax +49 (0) 36 77 / 69 4399
<http://www.emt.iis.fhg.de>

Subject: Acquisition and Maintenance of a Music Database for Research Purposes by
UIUC

Ilmenau, 11 November 2002

Dear Professor Zukoski,

this letter is intended to express our support of Professor J. Stephen Downie's intention to build up a test database for music information retrieval at UIUC.

In our ongoing research and development work in the fields of automated audio identification and extraction of metadata from music material, we experience ever so often that without the ability to test algorithms versus a significantly large and representative database of test items the correct assessment of the quality and performance of the algorithm under test is in general not possible. In order to be able to perform these assessments and to compare the advantages and disadvantages of competing approaches to solve similar challenges, a unified test set is very much desirable.

The possible acquisition of the classical music library of the record label NAXOS in our opinion is an excellent step towards such a unified reference test database. Having been provided with this library for research purposes before, we found it very comprehensive and representative for the genre of classical music in a broad sense.

We are very much looking forward to see this database available for the interested research community, and hope that it will grow over time setting a standard testing background for new applications and products.

Yours sincerely,

(Original signature to follow on hard copy)

Markus Cremer

Vorstand der Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft
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Die Elektronische Medientechnologie ist eine Arbeitsgruppe des Fraunhofer IIS,
Bereich Angewandte Elektronik, Erlangen
Institutsleitung: Prof. Dr.-Ing. Heinz Gerhäuser

Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung
der angewandten Forschung e. V., München

Bankverbindung: Deutsche Bank, München
Konto 7521933 BLZ 700 700 10