

Professor Charles F. Zukoski
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31 October 2002

Dear Professor Zukoski:

This is in response to recent e-mail from Prof. J. Stephen Downie describing a proposal to establish, with cooperation from HNH, a music-information-retrieval testbed incorporating a very large amount of high-quality audio and to be hosted at NCSA in Urbana-Champaign. It is my understanding that this database would be made available at nominal cost to music IR scholars at other universities and research centers both in the U.S. and internationally. Such a database has the potential to revolutionize important types of research in music IR, and I enthusiastically support the proposal. As leader of the U.S. component of the OMRAS music-IR project, researcher for the Indiana University Variations2 digital-music-library project, and a member of the ISMIR Steering Committee, I look forward to seeing a more complete proposal that describes in some detail conditions under which the database will be made available to the music IR research community.

Very truly yours,

Donald Byrd
Senior Scholar
School of Music, Indiana University