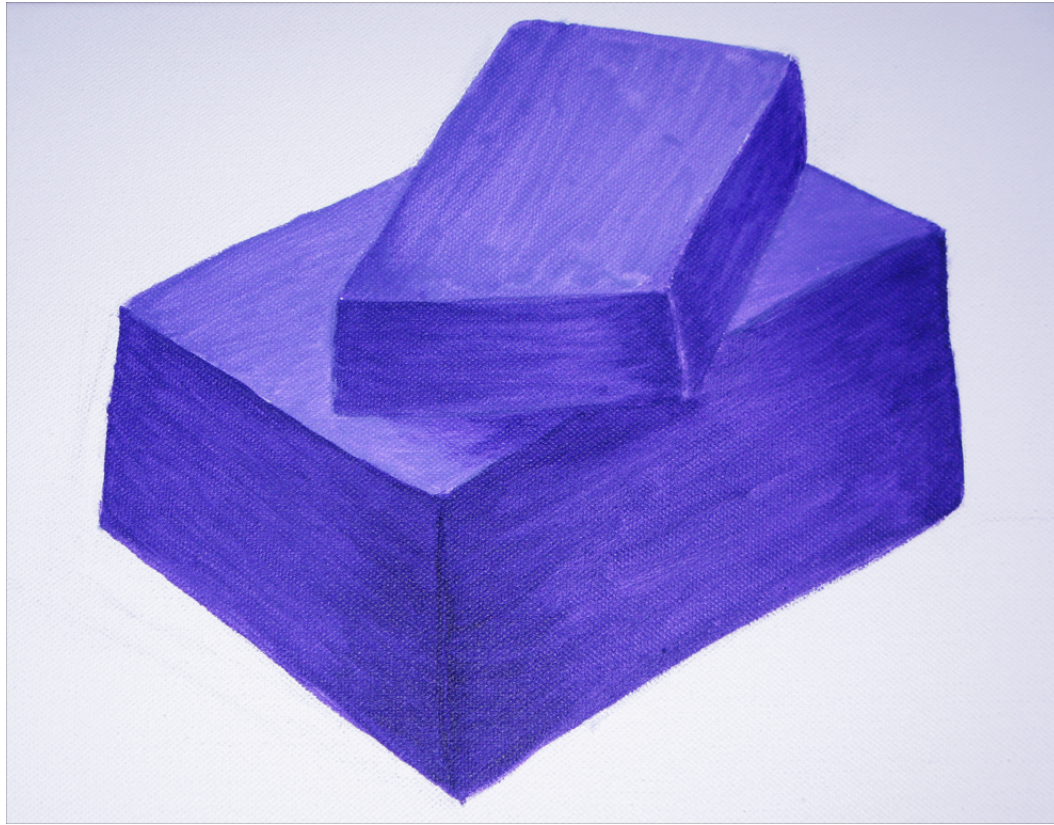# discourse

for Eb clarinet & interactive music system

cover art by Raquel Fernandes

by V.J. Manzo

Performance Note

Discourse is a piece for Clarinet in Eb and interactive music system. The original software, also written by the composer, takes the clarinet signal as input and processes the sound in real-time. All of the processing happens live, so there are no prerecorded sounds in the piece. In other words, the computer's performance is data-driven by the clarinet's performance.

The clarinet begins a conversation with the computer which responds by imitating the clarinet and expanding upon its ideas. These two voices continue their dialogue: formulating responses to the other's last statement, pausing to listen to each other, and even stuttering at times while trying to answer appropriately.
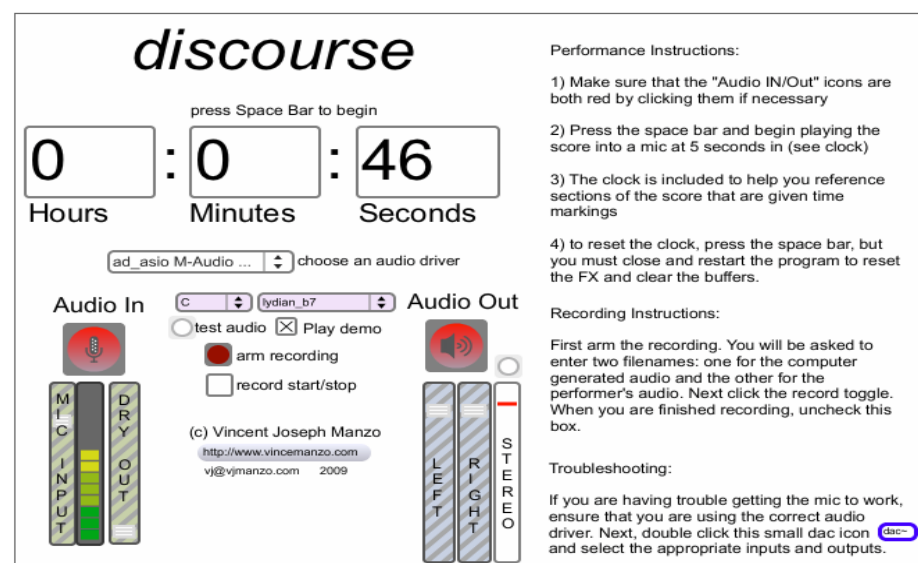
V.J. Manzo
2.17.2009

Duration 5 minutes and 30 seconds

A clock is given in the software. The clock numbers should correlate to time markings in this score when played at tempo. The performer needs only to press space bar on a computer running the Discourse software, and begin playing when the software cues to "begin".

Laptop events cue at these times:

0:28
0:48
1:09
1:18
1:33
1:44
1:48
1:54
1:58
2:08
2:20
2:40
2:47
2:55
3:10
3:47
4:00
4:08
4:17
4:38
4:59
5:20

discourse

press Space Bar to begin

0	:	0	:	46
Hours		Minutes		Seconds

ad_asio M-Audio ...   choose an audio driver

Audio In   [C] [lydian_b7]   Audio Out

○ test audio ☒ Play demo

● arm recording

□ record start/stop

(c) Vincent Joseph Manzo

http://www.vincemanzo.com

vj@vjmanzo.com   2009

MIC INPUT   DRY OUT   LEFT RIGHT STEREO

Performance Instructions:

1) Make sure that the "Audio IN/Out" icons are both red by clicking them if necessary

2) Press the space bar and begin playing the score into a mic at 5 seconds in (see clock)

3) The clock is included to help you reference sections of the score that are given time markings

4) to reset the clock, press the space bar, but you must close and restart the program to reset the FX and clear the buffers.

Recording Instructions:

First arm the recording. You will be asked to enter two filenames: one for the computer generated audio and the other for the performer's audio. Next click the record toggle. When you are finished recording, uncheck this box.

Troubleshooting:

If you are having trouble getting the mic to work, ensure that you are using the correct audio driver. Next, double click this small dac icon [dac~] and select the appropriate inputs and outputs.

screenshot of discourse software

software may be downloaded from:
www.vjmanzo.com

V.J. Manzo is a composer and guitarist with research interests in theory and composition, artificial intelligence, interactive music systems, and music learning. His interactive music systems and other software systems/algorithms are freely available for download from his website www.vjmanzo.com.

discourse

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