

*AHRC/EPSRC/JISC eScience four-year PhD Studentship in Musicology at Goldsmiths  
Department of Computing (Oct 2008 - Sept 2012)*

## PURCELL PLUS

*Principal Investigator:* Mr Tim Crawford, Senior Lecturer in Computational Musicology

*Co-Investigator:* Prof. Geraint Wiggins, Professor of Computational Creativity

*Location:* ISMS in the Department of Computing, Goldsmiths, University of London

This AHRC/EPSRC/JISC-funded eScience project, based in the ISMS group at the Department of Computing at Goldsmiths, is about reconciling the needs of humanistic scholarship (in this case, a musicological study) with the demands and constraints imposed by the emerging eScience technology being brought to bear on those needs.

Its essential aims are to:

- investigate a methodology for conducting musicological research in an eScience context by supplementing and supporting traditional methods rather than threatening or replacing them
- build a computer-based framework for investigating the knowledge of an expert community about a certain repertory of music by establishing, recording and analysing associations between information in the three domains of notated score, verbal commentary and recorded performance, and to develop the means whereby scholars can interact with this information, providing ways to annotate the sources, to extract knowledge that is meaningful for their study and present it effectively, without needing to learn the underlying technology
- demonstrate proof of concept of this framework on Purcell's *Fantazies and In nomines* (c1680) as the basis of enquiry, using a variety of information sources including a full score-encoding, a specially-commissioned expert commentary and several audio recordings
- show how ICT tools (such as music information retrieval as represented by the OMRAS 2 project) which operate on musical content (either in the symbolic/score or digital audio domain) may be used to produce information that can be expressed as musical knowledge in a manner that is compatible with humanistic enquiry. This will be carried on within the context of established and emerging text-based methods such as those facilitated by the Semantic Web and other technologies

### PHD STUDENTSHIP

We are offering a fully funded studentship for a PhD student who will work alongside the Purcell Plus technical team and consultants under the supervision of the PI and CoI, on a study of the emerging methodological issues and their implications for the discipline of musicology. We expect this to be carried out in the context of a number of musicological case studies undertaken during the period of the studentship. The duration is four years, during the

first of which the student will receive appropriate training in the necessary technical skills to carry out the study using the technological framework.

We wish to stress, however, that this will not require any more than basic ICT experience or expertise as a prerequisite; more important is a thorough musical background, a proven aptitude for musicological research, and the willingness to take on a challenge. The student will work for the first year alongside Mr David Lewis, the technical RA on the project and himself a trained musicologist, as the Purcell Plus framework is designed and developed. For the remaining duration of the studentship, the student will work alongside other members of the ISMS group, which is a very supportive and friendly environment in which to pursue this research.

We expect the PhD thesis to be on a topic related to musicological methodology and the use of IT tools such as music information retrieval and/or the elicitation of explicit and tacit knowledge from various sources of musical information. The PhD work will provide an essential element of validation to the Purcell Plus project which will feed back into the ongoing design of the software framework; this will continue to be maintained and developed as an ISMS resource after the project's funding comes to an end.

For further details, see:

[http://doc.gold.ac.uk/~mas01tc/PP/PP\\_Case.pdf](http://doc.gold.ac.uk/~mas01tc/PP/PP_Case.pdf)

Applicants should normally have an excellent first degree, preferably in music; those with a similar degree in a discipline relevant to the project with a demonstrable musical understanding and a good knowledge of music history will also be considered.

To apply for this studentship you will need to follow the normal Goldsmiths postgraduate admissions procedure. See: <http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/apply/pg/>

All applications must be clearly marked: "Purcell Plus PhD studentship".

The closing date for applications is 13th June 2008.

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## COMPUTING AT GOLDSMITHS

The Department of Computing at Goldsmiths is a vibrant, innovative and challenging research-led department, and one of Europe's leading research departments specialising in computing and its applications in the arts.

Intelligent Sound and Music Systems (ISMS) make or process music in ways which involve knowledge of music and/or musical behaviour. Among the aims of the ISMS group at Goldsmiths are a better understanding of how human music cognition functions and to build computational systems which analyse, model and ultimately exhibit behaviour which is musical and/or useful to musicians, including musicologists.