Composing the Gene Pool: Music Made with Genetic Algorithms

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Abstract
Composers have been interested for some time in the use of various kinds of compositional algorithms to help them create art music. In recent years, composers have employed genetic algorithms as one technique for this purpose with various goals and different types of success. Composers have utilized evolutionary techniques in jazz works as well as in new concert music. This talk will summarize some of these efforts and then examine several specific works by the speaker. The examples will illustrate some of the problems, limitations, opportunities, and avenues of future exploration for music composition using genetic algorithms. Recordings of musical examples will be presented.

Bio
Rodney Waschka is Professor of Arts Studies at North Carolina State University where he teaches computer music composition. He has composed approximately fifty works for various ensembles and forces including operas, orchestral works, real-time interactive music, electronic music, string quartets, and various other chamber works. His music is recorded on various labels including Capstone, Centaur, Vox Novus, Arizona University Recordings, and IRIDA in the USA, PeP in Canada, and Ama Romanta, Plancton, and Candy Factory in Portugal. Waschka’s works have been performed and broadcast throughout North America and Europe, in Japan, China, South Africa, Argentina, Columbia, Australia, and other countries. A former Treasurer of the International Computer Music Association, and former Managing Director of the Consortium to Distribute Computer Music, he currently directs the Arts NOW Series at NC State.

Refreshments will be served in 401 Daniels Hall at 4:00 p.m.