

The 2014 Electroacoustic Barn Dance

Paper I

University of Mary Washington

Department of Music

213 Pollard Hall

November 14, 2014

3:30pm

Gesture-Sensing Technology and the Bow: A Relevant and Accessible Digital Interface for String Instruments

presented by Zachary Boyt

Abstract:

Technological advances in powerful, miniaturized electronics have created a growing potential in continuing the evolution of string instruments through an accessible digital interface. Although many new types of instruments and controllers have explored this goal, gesture-sensing technology, when paired with the expressive vocabulary of the bow, has provided the most eligible solution towards bridging technology and tradition. Through a selective showcase of technical evolution, artistic application, and future possibilities, this presentation aims to present a case for the embrace of bow gesture sensing technology as an accessible digital interface in string instrument performance.

Zachary Boyt is a cellist and multimedia artist pursuing the creative expression of technology in live performance. He holds degrees in Cello Performance and Music Research from Western Michigan University studying the application of gesture-sensing technology to string instruments. This fall he will be pursuing a DMA in Performance of Data-Driven Instruments at the University of Oregon. Zachary is the co-artistic director and founder of Ensemble Kalamazoo, an internationally commissioning new music ensemble performing works of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. He also likes to ride bikes and eat raw foods.