

Special Issue

Feeling the Future—Haptic Audio

Message from the Guest Editors

Haptics increasingly pervades our interaction with technology; the vibrating phone is a simple everyday experience for billions of people. In music and audio, several research communities (e.g., the NIME, ICMC, and SMC conferences) act as nexuses for audio, HCI, and computer science, at times including haptics. In recent decades, such research has built increasing momentum and has given rise to many novel tactile interfaces and approaches to musicking. Research on force-feedback in musical applications has traditionally suffered from issues such as hardware cost and the lack of community-wide accessibility to software and hardware platforms for prototyping applications. Typically, associated publications often require the quantitative analysis of primary data, formal user testing in controlled conditions, or present mathematical context for novel interfaces. Although many of these approaches have proved valuable, the field has yet to demonstrate an amalgamated and compelling case for the actual *benefit* of haptics—especially force-feedback—to audio and musical applications. Presenting this case represents the scope of this Special Issue.

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