Algorithmic Remixes

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This file includes the abstract, keyword list, bibliography, and related material for the video essay, "Algorithmic Remixes" by Christine Boone. This video-essay may be found at
https://vimeo.com/societymusictheory/smtv092boone

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Abstract for
Algorithmic Remixes

by Christine Boone, *SMT-V* 9.2

This video essay describes a type of viral remix where someone takes a well-known song and alters it with a pre-defined process, or, an algorithm. I have called these tracks algorithmic remixes, and identify three sub-types. The first is the semi-algorithmic remix, where a human creator is necessary to apply an algorithm to a song effectively; for instance, there is a version of "Eleanor Rigby" by the Beatles where every pitch has been transposed to either an E or an F. The second type is the fully-algorithmic remix, where an algorithm could be applied to any song, and would produce the exact same result without a human creator making artistic decisions. An example is taking the song "Africa" by Toto and remixing it so that all of the lyrics are in alphabetical order. Finally, a song-specific algorithmic remix is based on a process that was designed for a specific song, and would not necessarily have the same effect on any song. For example, "Hey Ya!" by Outkast has been remixed so that the tempo gets faster every time André 3000 sings the words, "uh," or, "alright." These remixes serve to exaggerate a particular feature of a song, and can reveal something about that song through humor and irony.

Short Keyword List

Remix, meme, viral, YouTube

Extensive Keyword List

Remix, meme, viral, YouTube, Eleanor Rigby, the Beatles, Giant Steps, John Coltrane, All Star, Smash Mouth, Africa, Toto, Smooth Criminal, Michael Jackson, every other beat, alphabetical order, Hey Ya, Outkast, gets faster, gets slower, Help, Thunder, Imagine Dragons

About the Author

Christine Boone is Associate Professor of Music at the University of North Carolina Asheville. Since receiving her Ph.D. in Music Theory from the University of Texas at Austin, Christine has established herself as one of the foremost scholars on mashups, and her work on this subject has

been published in several national and international forums. Christine, a soprano, is an active performer in both choral ensembles and solo work. She has also put her musical knowledge to work on National Public Radio's classical music game show, "Piano Puzzler." For more of Christine's work with mashups, see http://christineboone.wix.com/mashademia.

Discography and Filmography

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