Network-Enabled Platforms Maintenance Program

Progress Report

Project Information

Lead Contractor:	McGill University		
Project Name:	Open Orchestra	Project #:	NEP-54
Date:	April 15, 2012.		
Claim Period:	January 1, 2012	To:	March 31, 2012

CANARIE is accountable for its investments in technology innovation, and therefore it must demonstrate achievement of its objectives and the outputs, outcomes and impacts of its activities. As such, funded projects are required to provide a progress report.

Lead Contractors are asked to address the following by no later than April 15th, 2012. The progress report should be completed in conjunction with the financial claim.

PROGRESS REPORT CHECKLIST – Please ensure the following sections are completed:

Project Progress	Completed
1. Technological Progress	Yes
2. Project Development & Activities	Yes
3. Project Plan	Yes
4. Projected vs Actual Costs	Yes
5. Intellectual Property	Yes
6. Communications	Yes
7. Web Site Information	Yes

CLAIM CHECKLIST - Please ensure the following sections are completed and attached to this document:

	Completed and Attached
8. Financial Claim Schedule	Yes
9. Invoices for Eligible Costs over $1000 incurred and paid	Yes
10. Employee Timesheets (signed by employees and supervisor)	Yes

APPENDIX CHECKLIST – Please include any relevant materials:

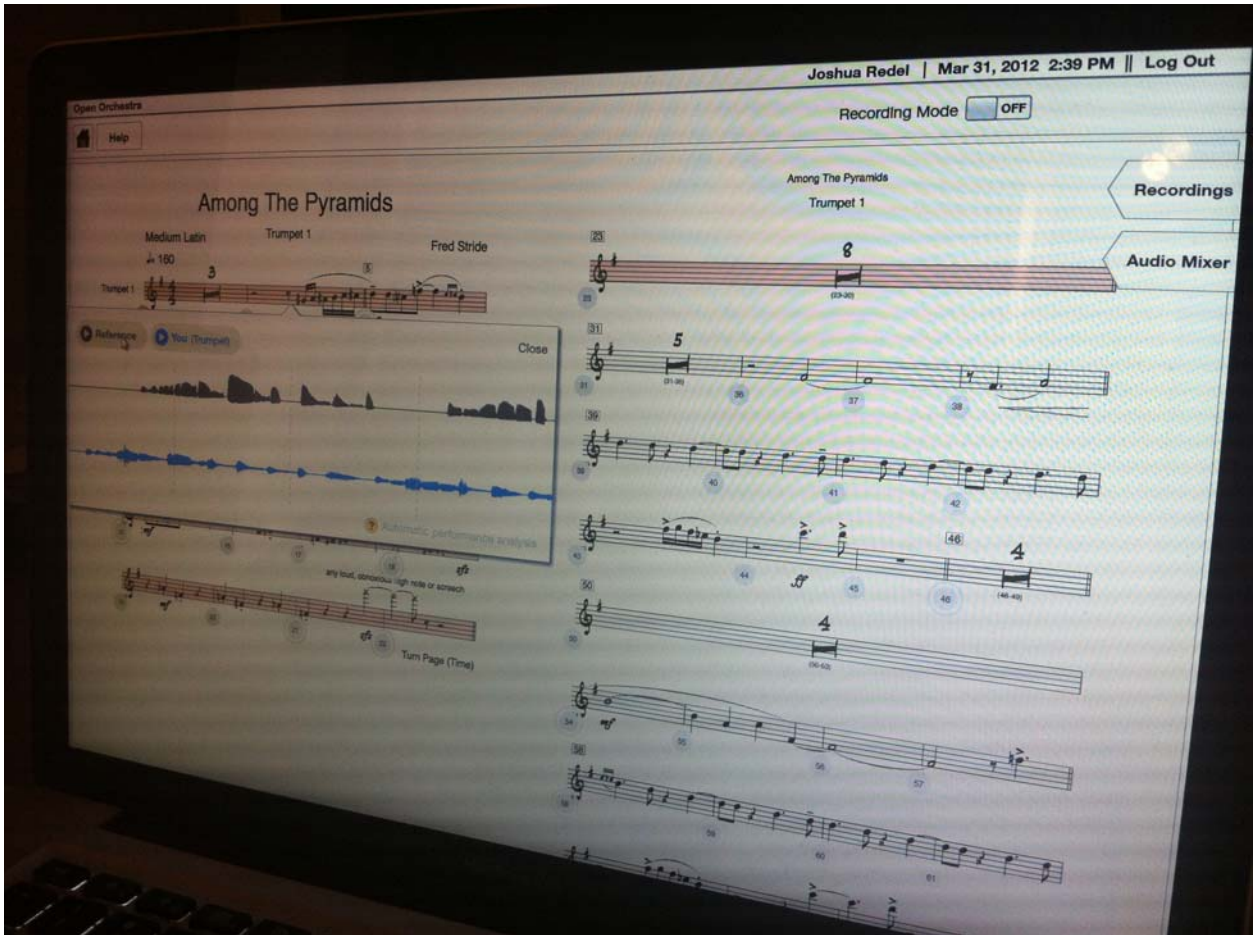|	Attached
11. Communication Materials	Yes

1. Technological Progress

1. **Adobe Flash Video Player Problems**

   As reported at Dec. 31, 2011, Adobe identified a bug in their RTMFP implementation that caused notable problems when playing back high bandwidth video. As promised at that time, they subsequently provided us with a custom version of Flash Media Server that increased RTMFP SendFlow buffer size from 128KB to 512KB. Unfortunately this did not solve the problems and there continue to be occasional video glitches that, while annoying, did not prevent us from testing the system with users as planned.

2. **Integration of Automatic Feedback Visualization into the Main Interface**

   The existing separate module which presents three visualizations of the user's performance compared to a reference professional performance was described in the Claim 4 Progress Report at August 31, 2011. The intention was to subsequently integrate it into the main interface so that the student can get immediate feedback and then record another performance without having to exit the main interface. This was accomplished although the process is rather slow and more work has to be done so that the visualizations appear more quickly. After recording, the student clicks on a bar in the score and the visualization displays that bar and the next four.

The feedback visualization is shown at left overlaid on the score in the main interface.

2. Project Development & Activities

1. Complete the testing of the platform at the five partner institutions. Evaluation documents complete for both the improved three screen workstation version and the single screen home version.
Complete. Evaluation report attached as Appendix 1.

2. Revise the on screen printed scores to match the actual recorded performances, particularly for the opera recordings.
Complete.

3. Fix the automated page turning of the scores.
Complete.

4. Demonstrate integration into the main interface of the automatic feedback visualization of the user's performance compared to a reference professional performance.
Complete. See photo illustration above.

5.   Add an initial tutorial to explain the operation of the platform.
Complete. In addition, four small video tutorials were added as a help menu covering the music library, user recordings, audio mixer and audio interface.

6.   Press demonstration of the platform.
Complete. There was a demonstration for *The McGill Reporter* which is expected to lead to demonstrations for other members of the press.

7.   Discuss commercialization of the platform with potential corporate partners.
Underway. The project is currently identifying potential partners.

8.   Paper delivered at the Visualization and Data Analysis Conference in San Francisco.
Complete. Paper attached as Appendix 2.

3. Project Plan

The project has followed the plan outlined in the SOW with the following exceptions:

1. **Adobe Flash Video Player Problems**

   These problems described above were not solved. However, although annoying, they did not prevent us from testing the system with users at the five partner institutions as planned.

2. **Commercialization Discussion with Potential Corporate Partners**

   The overall very enthusiastic response of users during the recent testing of the platform led to a more serious consideration of the commercialization possibilities. The original plan of approaching major foreign multinationals active in the field was suspended to enable consideration of forming a new Canadian spin-off corporation with venture capital funding as well as other Canadian commercialization options. This process is underway and may take some time to complete.

4. Projected vs Actual Costs

The actual cash flow summary, with comparison to projected costs, is attached as Appendix 3.

5. Intellectual Property

There was no Intellectual Property developed during the reporting period.

6. Communications

There was a presentation by Nicolas Bouillot at the *Visualization and Data Analysis Conference (VDA 2012)* in San Francisco on January 22 - 26, 2012 (attached as Appendix 2).

There was a demonstration of the platform for *The McGill Reporter* and it is anticipated that an article on the project will appear in the near future. This may lead to further coverage in the press.

7. Web Site Information

The project web site address where documentation is being maintained is:
http://canarie.mcgill.ca/project_nep2_index.html