HMSL

Hierarchical Music Specification Language User and Reference Manual

Version 4.2

Macintosh and Amiga

HMSL developed and written by Phil Burk, Larry Polansky, and David Rosenboom Produced and distributed by Frog Peak Music Box A36, Hanover, New Hampshire 03755

By Phil Burk and Larry Polansky Spring 1992 Turnkey (compiled) images of code written in HMSL may not be sold or distributed. No applications written in HMSL may be sold, or distributed without written permission from the authors.

Only copies directly obtained from *Frog Peak Music*, or the authors are licensed for use. The software is not copy-protected, but identification codes are embedded in the software, so that all legal copies may be kept track of. No support of any kind will be given to unauthorized copies.

No copies of HMSL may be made by anyone other than *Frog Peak Music*, or the authors, except for personal backups. No additions, changes, modifications, or deletions of the source code may be made or distributed in any fashion, except for personal use, whether or not there is any remuneration, by anyone other than the aforementioned three authors. Pieces written in HMSL code may be freely traded among authorized HMSL users, but not purchased or sold, and only for the purposes of non-commercial distribution of musical and theoretical ideas. Only the source code written specifically for these pieces, which is separate and distinct from that source code supplied with HMSL, may be distributed, **not HMSL itself.**

Revisions of the system must be obtained from *Frog Peak Music*. It is strictly prohibited to copy revisions for other's use. Authorized users may make backups for their own use, and in some cases, arrangements may be made for multiple copies in a studio situation. However, if this is the case, written permission must be obtained from *Frog Peak Music*.

The philosophy behind the distribution of HMSL is that we want the user to be as *experimental as possible* with its use, and we intend the language to be, of course, fully *extensible* and *customizable*. We fully expect that after a few months with a creative user, we may not recognize it. For this reason, however, we want to be centrally responsible for the language itself, and ask that people don't distribute their changes. Any interesting modifications, extensions, bug-fixes, or conceptual alterations will be considered for inclusion into the canonical version, but we reserve the right to be the sole distributor of that version—kind of "hubware." We consider HMSL users to be members of a kind of experimental "network", and our intent is to help facilitate music experimentation. To do this, we want to keep control of HMSL itself. We encourage communication and interaction among users of the language.

For more information, call (415) --- - ----, or write to Larry Polansky, Phil Burk, or David Rosenboom, Frog Peak Music, Box A36, Hanover, NH 03755; or Larry Polansky, Dept. of Music, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire 03755.

Email on Internet:

```
phil@-----edu
— or —
larry.polansky@----edu.
```

HMSL and this manual are copyright © 1987 Larry Polansky, David Rosenboom, and Phil Burk. All rights reserved.

HMSL is produced and distributed by:

Frog Peak Music (A Composers' Collective), Box A36, Hanover, New Hampshire, 03755

You may also contact Phil Burk through:

```
Delta Research, P.O. Box -----, San Rafael, CA, 94915, (415) --- - ----
```

As of 2013, contact authors at: http://www.softsynth.com/

Acknowledgements

HMSL was developed by the three authors at the Mills College Center for Contemporary Music (CCM) in collaboration with CCM students and staff. It is the result of technical, musical, philosophical, and theoretical input from many fine artists and thinkers who have worked at, or visited, the CCM over the past five years, to whom the authors are deeply indebted. Some financial support for HMSL's development came from Mills College and from the Inter-University Consortium for Educational Computing based at Carnegie-Mellon University, for which we are grateful.

We would also like to thank the many composers who have used HMSL in its many incarnations and offered valuable input, support, and in some cases, development. Some of these composers include Robert Marsanyi, Nick Didkovsky, Carter Scholz, Mike Haas, Philip Corner, Pauline Oliveros, Steve Curtin, Jeanne Parson, Steven Pasos, Phil Stone, Toyoji Tomita, David Brown, Bill Maginnis, Brooks Williams, Peter Yadlowsky, Martin Kees, Gerry Kallaus, Henry Lowengard, David Galbraith, Steve Pasos, Dan Kelley, Paul Patton, Ron Kuivila, Jarrad Powell, Ken Worthy, Mitchell Gass, Andy Bridle, Steve Everett, Steve Miller, Darren Gibbs, and many graduate students at Mills College. Carol Lennox, Marcia Williams, and the staff of the Mills College Computer Learning Studio provided invaluable assistance and support. Jody Diamond and Mary Valente deserve deepest thanks for their personal support and encouragement over the many years of HMSL's development and dissemination.