Karlheinz Essl

Amazing Maze

infinite and interactive realtime composition for sampled sound particles
© 1993-2018, vs. 4.0 Freeware
http://www.essl.at/works/amazing.html

Alert

By default, macOS Sierra will block the installation of apps that are not from the Mac App Store or created by identified developers. If you are unable to install fLOW on your Mac please follow the three steps below or go to Macworld.com for help.

1. In Finder, Control-click or right click the icon of the AmazingMaze_4.0.app
2. Select "Open" from the top of contextual menu that appears.
3. Click "Open" in the dialog box. If prompted, enter an administrator name and password.

License

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When performed a public, the proper credits have to be given to its author, Karlheinz Essl, and a notice about the performance must be send to him
    mailto:khz@essl.at

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About

"Amazing Maze" is a work-in-progress that was started in 1993 at IRCAM (Paris). It is an attempt to realize an idea that has been haunting me for many years: the vision of music

• which composes itself at the moment of its sounding
• which is not merely a reproduction of a pre-fabricated notation
• which is capable of reacting on exterior influences
• which exhibits infinite temporal expansion
• and never repeats itself.

"Amazing Maze" is represented by a computer program which generates music by manipulating sampled sounds according to certain compositional strategies that are carried out in 9 different structure generators. Each generator synthesizes a characteristic musical language according to certain compositional algorithms that utilizes random operations, serial and stochastic procedures.

NB: Please note that this freeware represents a composition by Karlheinz Essl that you might use for your private recreation. The included sounds are an integral part of the composition and cannot (and must not) be changed.

System requirements

• Apple Macintosh computer with Intel processor
• macOS 10.10 or later

New features in vs. 4.0

• new user interface
• improved sound quality
• 64-bit

Quick intro

• Start the application by double-clicking on AmazingMaze_4.0.app
• Turn on "Audio" in the "Audio Status" window. Here you can also set the driver and the parameters for your audio interface.
• Hit the return key to start the automatic mode.
• Listen and enjoy.

Usage

Amazing Maze consists of 9 of so-called "structure generators" - software modules that are specialized in creating a certain type of musical structures. Those modules are represented on the screen as vertical "channel strips" with names such as "fire", "solo", "point", "grid", "plane", "drone", "figure", "nuage", and "pulse".

Those modules can be evoked - either by the built-in automatism which is started if you select "start" in the upper left popup menu or be pressing the <return> key. When you which to change the current selection of the "structure generators", press the <space> key.

Alternatively, you can also play them manually. First you have to switch off the auto pilot by selecting "stop" from the aforementioned popup

menu or pressing the <escape> key. Now you can go to any of the 9 structure generators and switch them individually on or off. This will start a so-called "_phraser" which autonomously makes the underlying "rhythm" generator either "active" or "passive". By this, phrases of different lengths where sound is played are alternating with pauses of various durations.

Finally, you can trigger the sounds that are generated by each structure generator - either by clicking with the mouse on the colored buttons, or by pressing the indicated keys on your computer keyboard. "a" would trigger a "fire" sound, "g" a "plane" and so forth. This feature allows you to play the piece like an instrument.

Menus

Apple Menu
• About Amazing Maze..: general information about the program and its author.

Audio
• Settings...: here you can set DSP specific parameters which are useful if you are using an external audio interface.

Info
• Check for Updates...
• Contacting the Author...
• Visit Karlheinz Essl's Website...
• More Music Software….

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Klosterneuburg, 2 Aug 2018

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