



Cross-Disciplinary Interplay
between the Humanities,
Technology and Musical
Practice

**Thursday,
December 1, 2011.
2:15-4 p.m. in U73.**

Guest lecture in the seminar
series
**Topics in the Aesthetics
of Music and Sound,**

<http://soundmusicresearch.org/seminarsfall2011.html>.

Limits, Risk and Accomplishment in Musical Performance

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Via Skype.



Abstract: Music is a form of human communication. This is especially true in live performance, where the performer is the communicator, and the performer's voice, body movements, gestures, facial expressions, and instrumental technique blend with and become part of the music made.

Successful performance is almost always an accomplishment, in which risks are taken and limits of form, instrument, or performer are overcome. Overdone, this detracts from the music and is mere showboating. All the same, the element of accomplishment is an integral and important part of musical performance; it can and should form part of the music, rather than being seen as a distraction. Using a variety of musical examples from various genres, including classical, jazz and blues, and featuring various instruments, including the diatonic harmonica, I explore the ways that accomplishment of this sort becomes an important part of human musical communication, and consider the compatibility of this claim with other ideals of performance that might seem to conflict with it.

ALL ARE WELCOME!