

**PERFORMATICS**


# Teaching Artsy Types to Think Like Geeks and Vice Versa

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## Computational Thinking

### Jeannette Wing, 2006

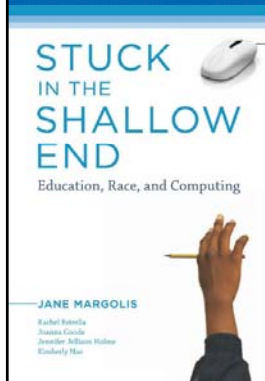
- CT is a fundamental skill for everyone ...
- CT involves solving problems, designing systems ... by drawing on the concepts fundamental to computer science
- CT includes a range of mental tools ...
  - using abstraction and decomposition when attacking a large complex task
  - judging a program not just for correctness and efficiency but for aesthetics, and a system's design for simplicity and elegance

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## Computational Thinking Jane Margolis et al., 2008

- ... seemingly cultural preferences and interests are profoundly impacted by historical legacies, ... and belief systems that justify ... inequities
- ... no [high school] computing class went beyond cut-and-paste instructions ... no classes introduced the problem solving and scientific reasoning of computer science



## PERFORMATICS

- connecting Computer Science to Music and Art through interdisciplinary courses
  - synchronized vs. hybrid courses
- originally conceived to attract and retain CS majors by connecting theory to practice
  - evolved into exposing non-CS majors to higher levels of computing than typically seen in “GenEd” courses
- supported by NSF CISE CPATH (2007) and NSF DUES TUES (2011)



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## Sound Thinking: Course Goals

- **Teach CT by dealing approximately equally with both computing and music**
  - GenEd Committee was adamant that Science majors must learn about music while Arts majors must learn about computing
- **Not just sound ... music**
  - aesthetics as well as mechanics
  - encouraging creativity
  - providing context: allowing students to work with — and create — their own music

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## Sound Thinking: Where Our Work Fits

- **Prof. Jason Freeman to Laptop Orchestra:**  
“We don’t want to try to create Ableton Live on the Web. It would take at least a couple of years and would not be Ableton Live.”



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# Sound Thinking: Where Work Like This Fits



Pro Tools® 10  
Committed to the Professional

# Sound Thinking: Where Work Like This Fits



 <p><b>Pro Tools 10 Software</b> The world's most advanced audio production platform <b>\$699.00</b> ✓ <b>Pre-Order</b></p>	 <p><b>Pro Tools 10 Upgrade/Crossgrade</b> The world's most advanced audio production platform <b>\$299.00 – \$499.00</b> ✓ <b>In Stock</b></p>	 <p><b>Pro Tools 10 HD Upgrade</b> The world's most advanced audio production platform <b>\$999.00 – \$2,499.00</b> ✓ <b>In Stock</b></p>
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## Sound Thinking: Where Work Like This Fits



9 Audio 1 Audio 2 Stop Sound UMass Lowell

## Sound Thinking: What Do Students Do?

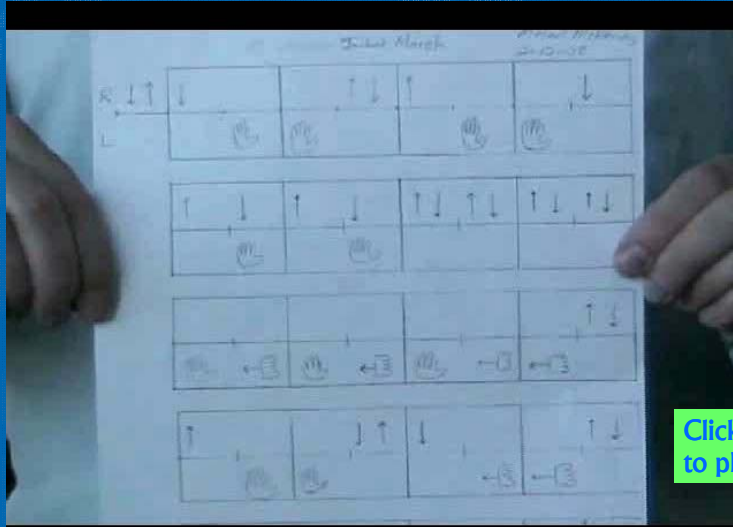
73.212 / 91.212 Sound Thinking  
**Course Home Page**  
*Spring 2011, Section 201*

### Assignments

No.	Due Date	Assignment Title
1	Thu Feb 3	<a href="#">Creating a Composition for a Found Objects Instrument</a> ←
2	Thu Feb 17	<a href="#">Creating a Composition from Digitized Found Sounds</a>
3	Thu Feb 24	<a href="#">Creating a Song Flowchart</a>
4	Tue Mar 8	<a href="#">Sequencing Sounds with Scratch</a>
5	Tue Mar 29	<a href="#">Creating a Composition Based on Major Seconds and Perfect Fifths</a>
6	Tue Apr 12	<a href="#">Transposing with Scratch</a>
7	Thu Apr 21	<a href="#">Using IchiBoards and Sensors</a>
8	Tue May 3	<a href="#">Final Sound Thinking Project and Performance</a>

10 <http://soundthinking.uml.edu> UMass Lowell

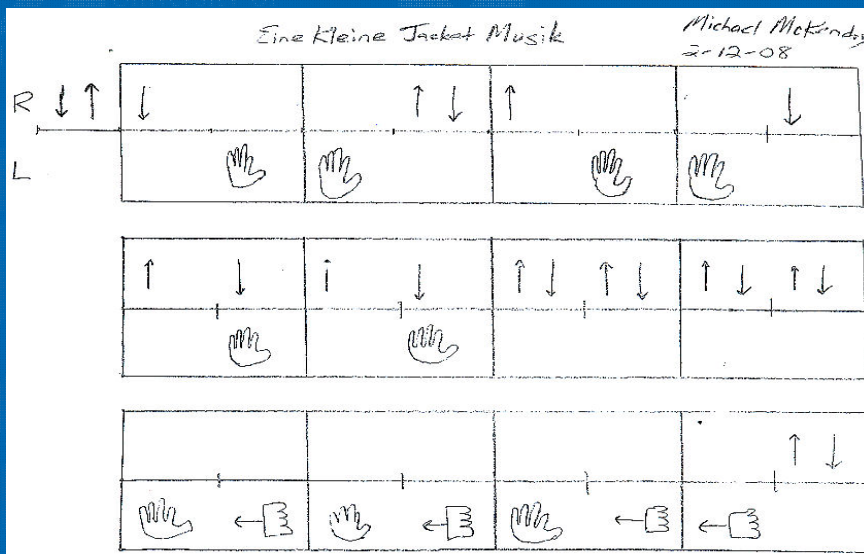
## Mike's Found Instrument: His Jacket



11



## Mike's Notation for His "Eine Kleine Jacket Musik"



12

## Eric's Found Instrument: Lever Drumitar



## Eric's Notation for His Lever Drumitar

SPL:  $\frac{1}{3}$

1	✓	
2		
3	✓	
4		
5	✓	
6		
7	✓	
8		
9	✓	
10		
11	✓	
12		
13	✓	

40	✓	
41	✓	
42	✓	
43	✓	
44	✓	
45	✓	
46	✓	
47	✓	
48	✓	
49	✓	
50	✓	
51	✓	
52	✓	

Click to play original audio

14

Stop Sound









## Eric's Audacity Mashup #1 Lever Drumitar

Click to play  
Audacity composition

18 Stop Sound

## Eric's Audacity Mashup #2 Lever Drumitar

"A spectrogram of my remix. I thought it was rather interesting to look at. See if you can figure out what bits are where."

[Click to play Audacity remix](#)

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[Stop Sound](#)



## Nicole's Audacity Mashup: Satan Lives Inside Your Radio

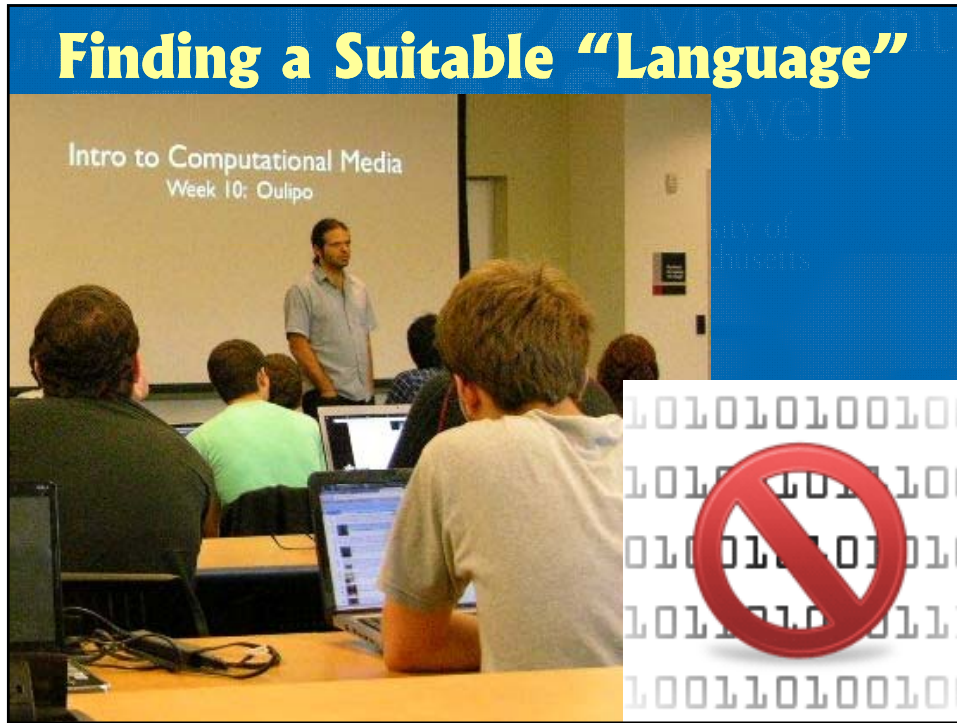
The screenshot shows the Audacity software interface with several tracks. From top to bottom, the tracks are: 'Keyboard1' (Mono, 44100Hz, 32-bit float), 'Audio Track1' (Stereo, 44100Hz, 32-bit float), 'Audio Track2' (Stereo, 44100Hz, 32-bit float), 'Audio Track3' (Stereo, 44100Hz, 32-bit float), 'Audio Track4' (Stereo, 44100Hz, 32-bit float), and 'Audio Track5' (Stereo, 44100Hz, 32-bit float). The timeline at the bottom shows a project rate of 44100 Hz and various playback controls. A blue arrow points to a specific area in the 'Audio Track4' track.

[Click picture to play audio](#)

[Stop Sound](#)




## Finding a Suitable "Language"



Intro to Computational Media  
Week 10: Oulipo

## SuperCollider Coding

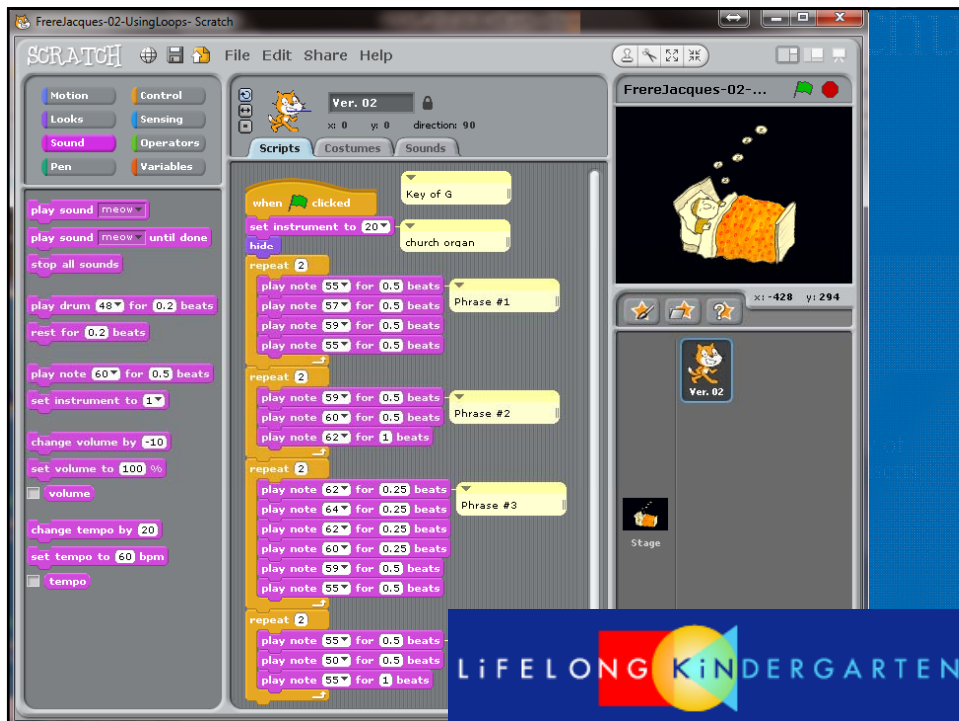
```
(  
  SynthDef( "kashmir", {  
    arg sound, freq ;  
    var sin, env_gen, env, freq_env ;  
    env = Env.triangle( 0.2, 0.2 ) ;  
    env_gen = EnvGen.kr( env, doneAction: 2 ) ;  
    sound = SinOsc.ar( freq, 0, env_gen ) + Saw.ar( freq, env_gen ) ;  
    Out.ar( [0,1], sound )  
  } ).load(s);  
)  
(  
  var x = 45, a = 6 ;  
  p = Pseq([ 45, 46, 47, 48 ], inf).asStream ;  
  q = Pseq([ 0.2, 0.2, 0.8 ], inf).asStream ;  
  t = Task( {  
    loop( {  
      if( a < 6, { a = a + 1 }, { a = 1 ; x = p.v ;  
        y = Synth( "kashmir", [ freq: x.midicps ] ) ;  
        q.value.wait ;  
      } ) ;  
    } ) ;  
  } ).start ;  
)  
t.stop ;
```



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## GT LOLC Coding

```
yoyo:this is starting to sound like inception
great scott!:play ju2 @m
jason:ju3 : ju2[q,q,u,u,u,u,e,e,w.n]
snag:goooooong
jason:loop ju3 @m
sid<3:loop merge(svar3,ju1)@m
jason:goo beat everyone
jason:good
great scott!:loop merge(ju2, s4)
yoyo:ryp2 : cat(p1[e], p8[s, s], p2[e], p8[e],p3[s],
jason:my kbd is sticky today
jaysim:loop cat(s10, jsvar2)
snag:svar4 : merge(svar3, cat(p4,s2,b3,p7))
yoyo:loop ryp2 @m
sid<3:loop sidp13[e,u,u,e]@m
snag:you need a usb fan !! :) I know a good one
jason:good ps eeryone
jason:lets do more ps
yoyo:cricket!
jason:loop jp1
```



The screenshot shows the Scratch interface with a script titled "FrereJacques-02-UsingLoops". The script is triggered by a "when clicked" event and includes the following blocks:

- set instrument to 20 (church organ)
- hide
- repeat 2:
  - play note 65 for 0.5 beats (Phrase #1)
  - play note 67 for 0.5 beats
  - play note 69 for 0.5 beats
  - play note 65 for 0.5 beats
- repeat 2:
  - play note 69 for 0.5 beats (Phrase #2)
  - play note 60 for 0.5 beats
  - play note 62 for 1 beats
- repeat 2:
  - play note 62 for 0.25 beats (Phrase #3)
  - play note 64 for 0.25 beats
  - play note 62 for 0.25 beats
  - play note 60 for 0.25 beats
  - play note 69 for 0.5 beats
  - play note 65 for 0.5 beats
- repeat 2:
  - play note 65 for 0.5 beats
  - play note 60 for 0.5 beats
  - play note 65 for 1 beats

The Scratch interface also shows a stage with a character and a "Stage" button. A "LIFELONG KINDERGARTEN" logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the screenshot.

## Ken's Mashup



The Scratch code for 'Ken's Mashup' is organized into two columns. The left column starts with a 'when clicked' event, followed by a 'repeat 4' loop. Inside this loop, there are four sub-loops, each starting with a 'broadcast' block (Beatbox, whoop, space ripple, and baloon) and followed by a 'repeat 4' loop containing 'play sound' and 'wait 2.7 secs' blocks. The right column contains four 'when I receive' event blocks for 'Beatbox', 'whoop', 'space ripple', and 'baloon', each followed by a sequence of 'play sound' and 'wait 2.7 secs' blocks. A 'Stop Sound' button is located at the bottom right.


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Click picture to play audio

Stop Sound



## In-Class Scratch Development




The Scratch code for 'In-Class Scratch Development' is organized into two columns. The left column starts with a 'when space key pressed' event, followed by 'broadcast initialize and wait' and 'broadcast go'. A 'forever' loop contains a sequence of 'play note' blocks with various frequencies and durations, followed by a 'rest for 1.75 beats' block and another sequence of 'play note' blocks. The right column starts with a 'when I receive initialize' event, followed by 'set tempo to 104 bpm' and 'set instrument to 81'. A 'when I receive go' event is followed by a 'repeat 8' loop containing four 'play drum' blocks. A 'when s key pressed' event is followed by a 'stop all' block. A 'Stop Sound' button is located at the bottom right.

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Click picture to play audio

Stop Sound



## In-Class Scratch Development

Click picture to play audio

counter: 7

transpose: 0

**Power Ranger Melody**

1	60
2	60
3	58
4	60
5	63
6	60
7	60
8	67
9	65
10	63
11	62

length: 11

**Power Ranger Rhythm**

1	.5
2	.5
3	.25
4	.5
5	.5
6	.5
7	.75
8	.75
9	.75
10	.75
11	.5

length: 11

```
when m key pressed
  set transpose to 0
  forever
    set counter to 1
    repeat 6
      play note item counter of Power Ranger Melody + transpose for item counter of Power Ranger Rhythm beats
      change counter by 1
    rest for 1.75 beats
    repeat 5
      play note item counter of Power Ranger Melody + transpose for item counter of Power Ranger Rhythm beats
      change counter by 1
    // The counter is continuing... ||
```

29 Stop Sound

## Live Coding with Scratch

Arvo Pärt

Scripts Costumes Sounds

```
when 1 key pressed
  forever
    set Counter to 0
    repeat length of AeolianPitchSet
      play note item Counter of AeolianPitchSet + 72 for item any of RhythmSet
      change Counter by 1
      change volume by 5
    when clicked
      set tempo to 30 bpm
      set instrument to 43
      set volume to 100
      forever
        if volume < 10
          stop all sounds
    when 2 key pressed
      forever
        set Counter2 to 1
        repeat length of AeolianPitchSet
          play note item Counter2 of AeolianPitchSet + 60 for item any of RhythmSet
          change Counter2 by 1
```

Arvo Pärtish Aeolian

Arvo Pärt volume: 100

**AeolianPitchSet**

1	12
2	10
3	8
4	7
5	5
6	3
7	2
8	0

length: 8

**RhythmSet**

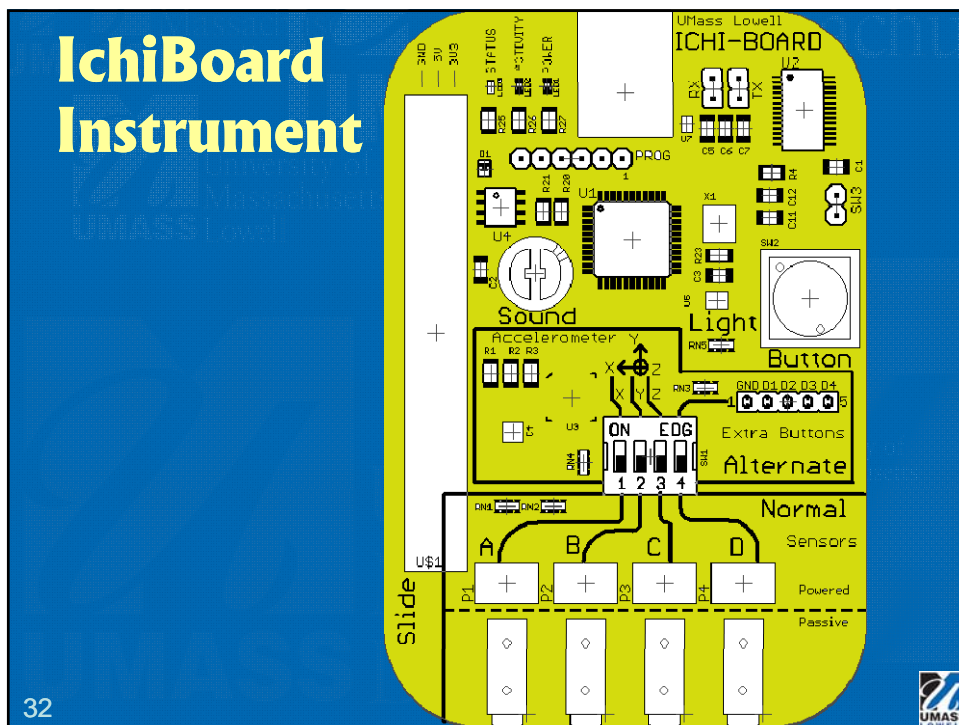
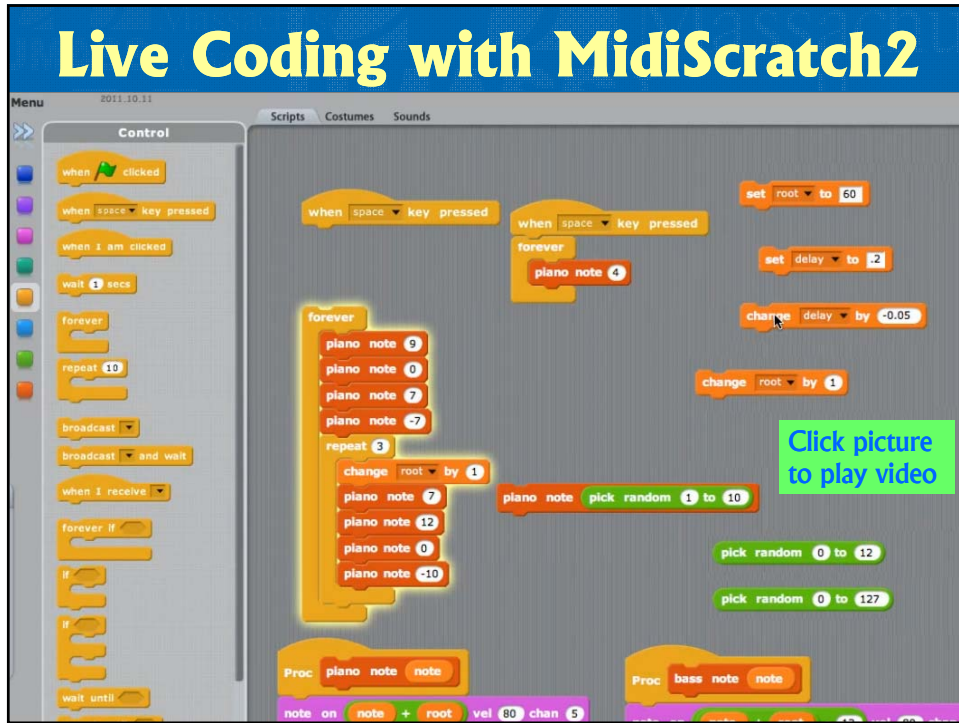
1	.5
2	1
3	1

length: 3

New sprite:

Arvo Pärt

Stage





## IchiBoard Instrument

The screenshot shows the Scratch IDE with a script for the IchiBoard instrument. The script starts with a 'when clicked' event, followed by 'set instrument to 53'. A 'forever if' loop is triggered by a 'sensor' block (button pressed). Inside the loop, there are several calculation blocks: 'set slider to slider sensor value / 10', 'set slider to round slider + 0.5', 'set slider to 12 - slider', and 'set octave offset to 60'. A 'repeat 2' block contains an 'if slider > 5' condition, which leads to 'set slider to slider - 5' and 'set octave offset to octave offset + 12'. The final steps are 'set Note to item slider of Minor Pentatonic + octave offset' and 'play note Note for 0.167 beats'. The right panel shows a 'Minor Pentatonic' scale with a slider set to 6, an octave offset of 72, and a note of 84. The scale list shows notes 0, 3, 5, 7, and 10.

## Jeremy & Nicole IchiBoard Duet

A video still showing a man (Jeremy) kneeling on a wooden floor, playing a circular IchiBoard instrument mounted on a stand. He is wearing a dark jacket and glasses. A green button with the text 'Click picture to play video' is overlaid on the bottom right of the image. The number '34' is in the bottom left corner, and the UMass Lowell logo is in the bottom right corner.



The image shows a screenshot of the Performamatics website. At the top left is a logo with musical notes and binary code. The main header reads "University of Massachusetts Lowell Depts. of Music and Computer Science" and "PERFORMAMATICS". Below this is the title "Computational Thinking through Computing and Music" and the subtitle "an interdisciplinary NSF TUES project". A navigation bar includes links for Home, Workshop, About Our Project, About Us, Resources, and Publications. A yellow box highlights the announcement: "Our first NSF-sponsored interdisciplinary workshop will take place on: Thursday and Friday, June 21-22, 2012, at UMass Lowell. To apply for attendance, please fill out the workshop application form." A paragraph of text describes the project's goal to enhance students' grasp of computational thinking through music. A small photo shows students working together. The footer includes the website "www.performamatics.org", the event details "NSF-Sponsored Workshop Interdisciplinary Teaching June 21-22, 2012, at UMass Lowell", and the UMass Lowell logo. The number "35" is in the bottom left corner.

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The image shows a slide titled "Performamatics: Acknowledgments". It features the UMass Lowell logo in the top right corner. The text lists the following:

- **Additional Senior Personnel**
  - Sarah Kuhn – UMass Lowell Dept. of Psychology
  - Scott Lipscomb – Univ. of Minnesota Dept. of Music
  - Fred Martin – UMass Lowell Dept. of Computer Science
- **MIT Media Lab Lifelong Kindergarten Group**
  - John Maloney – Staff Researcher, Scratch Lead Developer
  - Mitchel Resnick – LEGO Papert Prof. of Learning Research
  - Eric Rosenbaum – Doctoral Student
- **NSF Awards CNS-0722161 and DUE-1118435**




The NSF logo is located in the bottom right corner of the slide. The number "36" is in the bottom left corner.


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## Thank You to My Georgia Tech Hosts

- **Mark Guzdial**
  - School of Interactive Computing
- **Jason Freeman**
  - School of Music
- **Brian Magerko**
  - School of Literature, Communication and Culture
- **Many Students and Staff**
  - Center for Music Technology



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Harper Farms, Lancaster, MA, 10/27/2011





**PERFORMAMATICS**  
**thank you**

**Jesse M. Heines**  
**S. Alex Ruthmann**  
**Gena R. Greher**



<http://www.performamatics.org>

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