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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Icelandic singer Björk incorporates the *reactable* as a key instrument of her Volta world tour

Barcelona, Spain/Indio, CA, April, 27th 2007: With her first tour concert at the Coachella festival in California, the Icelandic singer Björk introduced the *reactable* for the first time to a mainstream audience. This revolutionary electronic music instrument constitutes a key element of the artist's current world tour "Volta", which will appear at numerous music festivals during the next 18 months.

About the instrument

The *reactable* is a collaborative electronic music instrument with a tabletop tangible multi-touch interface. Several musicians share the control of the instrument by moving and caressing objects on a luminous table, allowing them to create complex and dynamic sonic topologies in a kind of tangible modular synthesizer or graspable flow-controlled programming language.

The *reactable* hardware is based on a translucent, round multi-touch surface. A camera situated beneath the table, continuously analyzes the surface, tracking the player's finger tips and the nature, position and orientation of physical objects that are distributed on its surface. These objects represent the components of a classic modular synthesizer, the players interact by moving these objects, changing their distance, orientation and the relation to each other. These actions directly control the topological structure and parameters of the sound synthesizer. A projector, also from underneath the table, draws dynamic animations on its surface, providing a visual feedback of the state, the activity and the main characteristics of the sounds produced by the audio synthesizer.

About the creators

The instrument was developed by a team of digital luthiers (Sergi Jordà, Martin Kaltenbrunner, Günter Geiger and Marcos Alonso) working within the Music Technology Group at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona Spain. Since its first appearance at the Ars Electronica Festival in September 2005, the *reactable* has been shown and performed by its creators at various international media-art festivals such as Transmediale, Sonar and Optronica as well as scientific conferences such as SigGraph, NIME and ICMC.

The Music Technology Group (MTG) at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) in Barcelona, Spain, specializes in audio processing technologies and their music and multimedia applications. With more than 40 international researchers covering a range of disciplines, the MTG carries out research and development projects in areas such as audio processing and synthesis, audio identification, audio content analysis, description and transformation, singing voice processing and interactive systems. The MTG was founded in 1994 by its current director, Dr. Xavier Serra.

Acknowledgments

Several people have been collaborating in various ways with the *reactable* team during the past years and have contributed to the success of the project. The *reactable* team would like to thank Ross Bencina, Chris Brown, Hugo Solis, Ignasi Casasnovas, Claudio Nervi, Gerda Strobl and Enrico Costanza for their efforts.

Resources

reactable
Music Technology Group
Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Björk portal:
Coachella festival:

<http://mtg.upf.edu/reactable/>
<http://mtg.upf.edu/>
<http://www.upf.edu/>
<http://www.bjork.com/>
<http://www.coachella.com/>

reactable images & portraits

please contact the photographer Chris Lucas (chris@arunproductions.co.uk) for high resolution versions of these photos and the terms and conditions for release
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/arunproductions/> or visit our web page.

reactable videos:

several demonstration and concert videos are available at youtube.com
http://youtube.com/results?search_query=reactable

Coachella Björk concert images & videos:

<http://bjork.com/facts/gigography/sub.php?id=34>
<http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=Bjorkocity>

