Composer Benjamin Oliver and Riot Ensemble present contemporary works that explore creative applications of artificial intelligence (AI).

‘British soul sensation’ Hannah Williams joins forces with the Riot Ensemble Quartet to premiere Benjamin Oliver’s song cycle, Love Letters. The work includes melancholic, absurd and dramatic expressions of love made with LoveLaceGPT, a new AI text generation model developed by the University of Southampton research team.

AI music and text generation, as well as sound processing, feature in five distinctive works by leading young composers. The startlingly gifted Colombian-American soprano Stephanie Lamprea guests for three vocal pieces.

forms.microsoft.office/lovelettersworkshop
Songwriting and computer science: two completely different disciplines, right?... Or are they?

In anticipation of Benjamin Oliver’s, Love Letters [With AI], the University of Southampton is offering a 1hr workshop for KS5 students, with an aim to bridge the gap between the arts and sciences.

With an exclusive opportunity to explore the newly developed LovelaceGPT, this session will address revolutionary approaches to the art of songwriting, foregrounding the connection between creativity and artificial intelligence.

Led by vibrant undergraduate students, we invite young programmers, musicians, poets and engineers to unearth their collaborative potential!

Outline of the day:

- **From 11am**: workshop introduction from Charlotte & Yaseen: context about the Love Letters project, and how the workshop content will relate.

- Interactive presentation & demo from Yaseen: explanation of how the LovelaceGPT application was developed, covering topics such as language models and design interactions.

- Students help to create an original AI generated poem!

- Songwriting presentation from Charlotte: guidance in how poetic form and metre can be used to strengthen musical syntonisation. Further tips on how to manipulate AI generated material to produce amazing works of art.

- **12pm**: break for lunch.

- **1pm**: concert!

About Love Letters:

Benjamin Oliver says:

“Last year, I approached Hannah Williams to collaborate on a song cycle, and then boom: ChatGPT landed. After experimenting a little, I found the generic quality of the content generated by ChatPT frustrating. I secured funding from the University of Southampton Web Science Institute to form a new research team, including literature professor Will May and AI expert Shoaib Jameel.

We developed LovelaceGPT, which creates first-person love texts. I’ve been setting these texts to music for Hannah to perform, accompanied by a quartet of keyboardists and percussionists from Riot Ensemble. While the texts may not always make sense (to say the least), it has been exciting to find unconventional musical materials that bring them to life in my new work, ‘LOVE LETTERS’.

The show will be informally compered by Ben Oliver. The opportunity to hear from the composers, performers and research team about their experiences artistically with AI will be available.

The event will last approximately 90 minutes. Follow the link below to book your place!

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If you have any questions or queries, please don’t hesitate to get in touch!

crc1g21@soton.ac.uk
By signing up to the 11am workshop, students and teachers automatically book a ticket to attend the “LOVE LETTERS” premiere at Turner Sims.

Following the workshop, attendees will have the opportunity to break for lunch at 12pm, before returning for the concert at 1pm.

The concert will culminate the learning experience for the day. With pieces derived from a vast variety of prompts and styles, we hope the performance will motivate students to further explore their potential in the AI and creative fields.

Both the “LOVE LETTERS” workshop and performance will take place on Monday 17th July, 2023.

FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW TO BOOK YOUR PLACE!

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