

Cross-Town Traffic 2.0

William Walker, PhD

Senior Manager

Mozilla Corporation

Mountain View, California, USA

(01) 650 903 0800

bwalker@mozilla.com, softwarewalker.com

Brian Belet, DMA

Professor of Music

San Jose State University

San Jose, California, USA

(01) 408 924 4632

brian.belet@sjsu.edu, www.BeletMusic.com

ABSTRACT

Cross-Town Traffic 2.0 is an ensemble music performance environment for any number of audience performers, a principal performer, and a conductor. The performers use their own mobile devices running a performance interface based on the Web Audio API. The conductor leads the performers through a fully composed musical structure. Sixteen previously recorded audio files (eight Hammond B3 samples, performed and recorded by Walker; and eight viola samples, performed and recorded by Belet) are arranged into four groups, with the audience performers similarly arranged in four corresponding performance sections. Following cues from the conductor, the ensuing performance immerses humans in the midst of cellphone speakers and the flow of the musical structure. Individual performers can shape their own audio contribution within the confines of the larger composed structure, providing an element of playful participation. The resulting distributed cellphone audio challenges the performance roles of the humans in the room, as opposed to the number and quality of loudspeakers in the space. Using mobile web audio offers very low barriers to audience participation, in contrast to logging into an app store, searching and finding the appropriate native app, installing and launching the app, all prior to the start of the performance.

WEB LINKS

Source code and audio samples available: <https://github.com/wfwalker/mc-choir>

Performance interface available: <https://wfwalker.github.io/mc-choir/>

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our special thanks to Rainer Cvillink and Spencer Hui from Mozilla for producing the performance demonstration video for this project, and to Harald Kirschner, Michael Ellis, Havi Hoffman, Matthew Claypotch, for play testing the interface and performance experience. Dr. Belet thanks the School of Music and Dance, San Jose State University, for partial travel support to attend WAC 2016.



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Web Audio Conference WAC-2016, April 4–6, 2016, Atlanta, USA.

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