Welcome to the Composers' Desktop Project

The Composers' Desktop Project was formed in 1987 by Andrew Bentley, Archer (Tom) Endrich, Richard Orton, and Trevor Wishart, with David Malham (hardware design) and Martin Atkins (system software). The launch of our first direct-to-disk sound transformation audio system included a graphic 'desktop' by Rajmil Fischman. The intention was to create an organisation through which composers could work together to bring to their *own desktops* a broad range of computer music facilities, particularly those relating to sound design and electroacoustic music composition.

It is now 33 years later, the CDP system has grown enormously, CDP became CDP Ltd. A Social Enterprise in October 2013, our core sound transformation software package has become a free download, an Online User Forum has been set up, and there are a number of core and independent development projects underway. One of our current goals is to convert the source code into proper libraries, which will open up many more development opportunities.

From the start, CDP has maintained an open policy for sharing expertise among its members. We strongly believe in the importance of practical experience and seek to promote the development of software that flows directly from the insights of composers active in the field of composing with sound. The CDP source code is now available to developers under an LGPL licence and it can also be licensed from CDP for commercial use.

Given the extraordinary rate of computer development during this period, the floating-point intensive software is now running on desktop PCs at a rate we never thought possible in 1987. Now in 2020 we have a System with an extraordinary range of in-depth software with which to process/transform/sculpt sounds – complementary to many sampler-MIDI and hard disk recording systems. The major contributor to this development has been the distinguished composer/programmer Trevor Wishart, and we are naming the source code package the **CDP-Wishart** libraries. Work is beginning on a Release 8 which will include about 50 more programs from Trevor. The CDP software is used by a number of major computer music composers/sound designers and is also used in the music technology courses of many educational institutions.

All who have been involved with the evolution of the CDP System welcome you to the Project and hope that the facilities they have helped to make available will enable your musical imagination to discover and explore exciting new musical materials and to create soundscapes which realise your full potential – and we invite you to participate in the further evolution of the CDP Project and Software.

Key CDP Contributors over the years:

Trevor Wishart   Main sound transformation software programmer and the *Sound Loom* GUI
Richard Dobson System software: porting, development & maintenance, graphics, Multi-Channel Toolkit
Archer Endrich   Administration, documentation & CDP Project coordinator
Rajmil Fischman Author of the first graphic package on the Atari ST, including a graphic library
Robert Fraser   Author of the *Soundshaper* GUI; HTML5 documentation revisions
Martin Atkins   Author of the original Unix™-like CDP soundfiling system for Atari ST
John Fitch   Advisor in all things technical; *Tabula Vigilans* compilation and updates
Andrew Bentley Author of the first set of CDP sound transformation programs, 'Groucho' for Atari ST
David Malham   Hardware consultant and designer, particularly of the *SoundSTreamer* for the Atari ST
Simon Kunath   Has handled the CDP Downloads site for many years and hosts the CDP Forum

Other Contributors :
Richard Orton, Melvyn Poore, Michael Clarke, Bertrand Merlier, Peter Bowcott, Florian Eidenbenz, Mark Grimshaw, Rob Waring & Oyvind Hammer, Hans Strasburger & Stefan Kohler, Manuel Op de Coul, Adrian Armstrong, Andy Jongman, Duncan Hansell, Peter Green, Panos Kudumakis, Philippos Theocharidis, Leigh Landy, Nick Laviers, Louisa Yong, Ambrose Field, Adrian Sutton, Gustav Ciamaga, Adam Stanovic

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    * which were available on our earlier ST systems

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To all other contributors to CDP, as enumerated on our Website.