

Amazing Grace: How Sweet the Sound of Synthesised Bagpipes

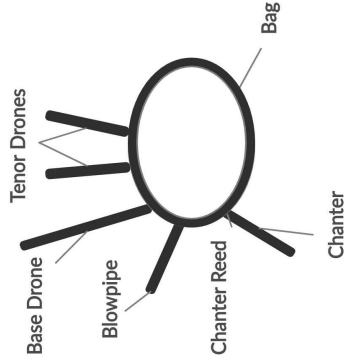
Hannah Pfeil, Dr. Abram Hindle, Hazel Campbell
 Department of Computer Science, University of Alberta

hannahpfeil@gmail.com, hindle1, hazel.campbell@ualberta.ca

Introduction

- A bagpipe is made of an enclosed reed, a reed pipe, the chanter, drone pipes
- The chanter supplies the note, and the reed is fed from the bag that the operator drives with their arm

Figure 1: Diagram of a Bagpipe



Chanter

Purpose

To synthesize a bagpipe using Supercollider

Methods

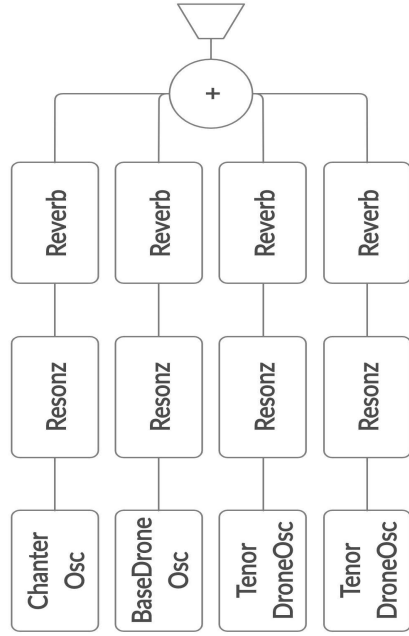


Figure 2: Flowchart of the Synth to an audio output, where Resonz represents a resonator

Methods

- Sheet music to *Amazing Grace* was transposed into midinote values
- Values and Synth were put into a pattern

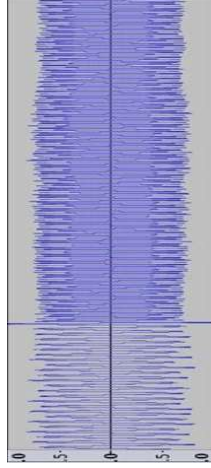


Figure 3: Sound wave of Amazing Grace synthesized

Results

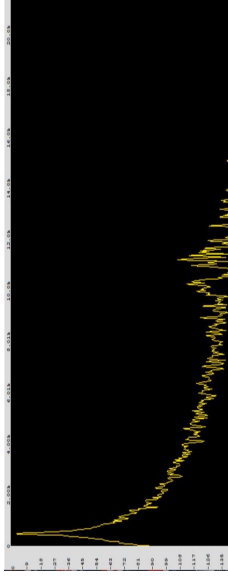


Figure 4: Frequency vs Loudness graph for synthesised version

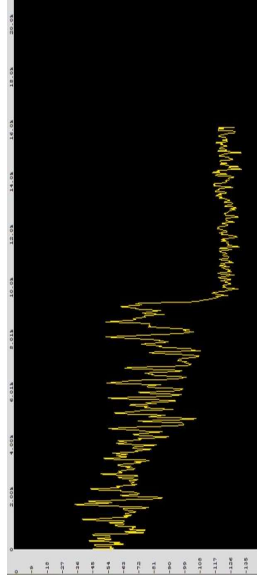


Figure 5: Frequency vs Loudness graph for natural version

Conclusions

- The natural graph has a varied loudness
- The loudness of the synthesised bagpipe drops off in a gradual fashion
- Shows supercollider can produce an approximation of a bagged reed
- Can eventually be used in performances, and choirs where there are limited members
- Can be used in audio software and audio post production

Literature Cited

- A.Hindle, D.Posnett, "Performance with an Electronically Excited Didgeridoo," NIME'17, 2017, pg 222-226
- E.Ducasse, "A Physical Model of a Single-Reed Wind Instrument. Including the Actions of the Player," Computer Music Journal, 2003, pg 59-70

Breizh Partitions. Amazing Grace. N.d, Celtic Scores, N.d. Digital

Acknowledgment

I would like to thank Dr. Abram Hindle for allowing me to work in his lab, as well as my supervisor, Hazel Campbell, and Amir Salimi for helping me during this program. I would also like to thank my teachers, Karen McMullen and Siobhan Oudith, for their support and references to help me get into this program, as well as Jenna Froese for her help with music theory. I would also like to thank WISEST, and my sponsors Motorola and Canada Summer Jobs for providing this opportunity.