ABOUT CORAIL(CORAL) 2010
for Bb Tenor Saxophone

CORAIL(CORAL) is an interactive computer music environment for tenor or soprano saxophone. The program runs on a Macintosh computer using Max/MSP. The work exploits the possibilities of real-time pitch, gesture, and dynamic envelope tracking. The piece is designed for an instrumentalist equipped with a wireless microphone in order to enable free movement throughout a concert hall or in the open air during performance.

Signal from the microphone source is an analyzed by the software and used to produce the electro-acoustic result.

There is no pre-defined score for CORAIL(CORAL). There exists a set of "environments" that function collectively and can be called by the saxophonist at any time.

Learning CORAIL involves mastering and memorizing each individual function of the program. There is no traditional score for the work. Instead, there is a series of exercises to familiarze the peformer with each function of the software. Once each individual function has been rehearsed and internalized by the performer, then the functions can be grouped to eventually include the entire set of functions working globally. In CORAIL, all funtions are working globally at all times and it is the work of the performer to add, mix and overlap the material to create a lush and balanced electro-acoustic atmosphere in which to perform and continually generate more material.

CORAIL software is very sensitive to dynmaic/loudness levels of the live saxophone. The performer can control the level of the electronics with the loudness of playing. If the performer stops playing, the electronics of CORAIL will slowly die away to a very quiet level. When the performer plays the loudness of the electronics will increase to meet the level of the player. The performer can use this dynamic control function to great effect -- it should be rehearsed considerably.

CORAIL software keeps track of how often a player chooses to call a particular function or effect. When a performer continually calls an effect the software will interpret this as a cue to begin generating the same effect automatically and beyond the control of the performer. Once this is launched it take several seconds to complete and will be beyond the control of the performer.

Built into the compositional space is a notion of acceptable and expected error. Sometimes the computer will miss a cue that the performer has initiated, but this doesn't disturb the "enviroment". The peformer should simply carry forward and play continuously allowing the various effects to overlap and blur for the audience the relationship of performer to electronics. Nevertheless, the performer stays in full control of the overall environment from beginning to end.

CORAIL is designed for multi-channel surround sound with the ideal location of the live saxophone being in the center of a hall not the frontal proscenium. With the addition of a wireless microphone the performer can move and turn in different directions to allow the sound source to be spatialized in real-time and better mix with the electronics.