Playing With The Phantom: Human-Virtual Interactions in Jazz Performance
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Method

Participants: 2 ad hoc professional jazz trio (2 tenor saxophones, 1 piano).
Trio A/B performed the Same.
Sax A 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B played with audio-recordings of trios A or B (their own/other role removed).
Results report Sax B playing with recording of Trio A (Sax 2B removed).

Procedure:
Task: Jazz standard studio performance in four conditions: Turn Taking / Joint Action. Main Theme / Improvisation.

Data analysis: 4 time series (2 movement / 2 audio) x 2 Sax performers.
Analysis Methodology: Granger Causality / Qualitative Video Analysis. - Phenomenological interviews

Aims:
To investigate the dynamics of human-virtual (h-v) interaction between musicians in a jazz trio, comparing:
(i) the experience of PSM human-human (h-h) interactive performance, with
(ii) the experience of interaction between one musician and the audio-video recording of the two remaining, as a differentiated instance of sense-making (SM).

Assumptions:
h-v expressive alignment will depend on the degree of predictability of music information.
It is expected to find sound-kinetic responses aligned with the phantom’s in TT sections, and emergent automatic activity in J sections.

Results:
Site: Musicians Interaction

Standard
Musicians Interaction

Not Significant

Conclusions:
The extent to which PSM takes part in contexts of h-v musical interaction brings about the question of the type of SM elaborated in each context.

Expressive alignment in h-v interactions presents a particular type of PSM, although the physical features of a recorded performance do not modify themselves as performance takes place, the environmental outcome does effectively change, due to the ongoing sound-kinetic interaction of the live performer; it emerges as the live SM to the intrinsic agency conveyed by the audio-visual iconic-moving form.

In spite of the metaphorical phenomenology of interacting with the phantom -as reported by the live musicians- differences were found between Th and in the M I (Condition TT vs. J): that were not found in h-v SG analyses informing about a potential breaking of SM due to the level of uncertainty in channel communication, where a unifying condition that stabilizes the communicative loop is absent.

References: