

Sketching Music

... or, how to make music by using shapes.

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1 Digital Tabletops?

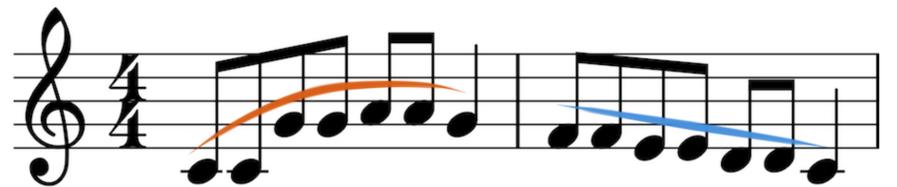
Think about a large horizontal **touch screen** with special objects that you can grab. DT Musical Instruments make it **easy to manipulate** complex musical concepts using simple interfaces and gestures.



2 Music Contour?

Contour in music is the **quality of movement of a melody**, including nearness or farness of successive pitches. It is often described in terms of **shapes** that visually resemble pitch movement.

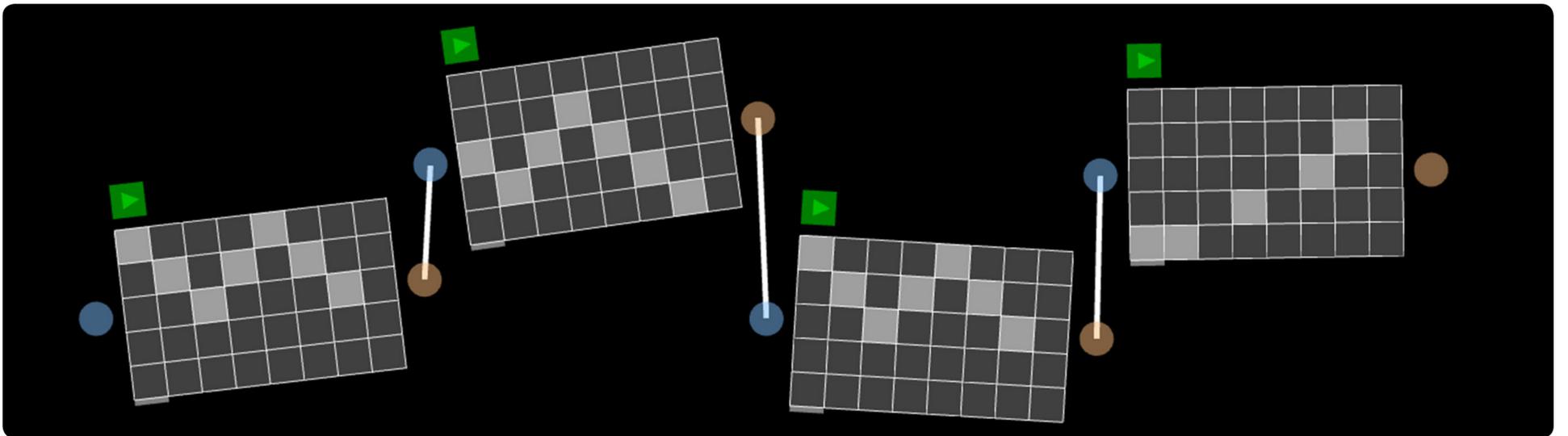
So



how do we **explain and manipulate** contour without using music notation?

3 A tabletop musical application to understand Contour

This application uses a **simplified music representation** in which music is created by **drawing shapes**. The grids can be connected to create longer melodies, and also rearranged to **manipulate music on a higher level**.



4 A study of Contour

A study involving individuals was conducted. The idea was to make participants **compose music that related to a painting**. The painting was chosen with features reminiscent of contour. The **aim** was to **associate visual images and music** in an interpretative context.



5 Results

- » DTMI's can help people learn and use simple musical concepts and used them to make music.
- » **Tutoring is critical** to the learning process:
 - » **12 of 20** participants **showed a difference** in their understanding of contour after the session;
 - » the **7 of these 12** that also received tutoring were **more proficient** than the others in **identifying contour shapes** and using the vocabulary used by the tutor.
- » **All 20** participants **enjoyed the experience**, and stated that they were **more confident in their potential ability to make music** than they were before.



Get in touch and find out more!
andreafranceschini.org/research