

Welcome to DAFx-01!

It is an honour for us to welcome you all to the fourth conference and workshop on Digital Audio Effects, this time at the University of Limerick in Ireland! It is a great responsibility to attempt to follow the success of previous conferences in Barcelona, Trondheim and Verona.

Delegates of from all the ten countries of the COST Action G6 Management Committee have been collaborating reviewing and selecting the 50 papers in the volume. The hosts of the previous DAFx conferences have been extremely helpful advising us here in Limerick about how to create a successful conference.

During the conference we will also provide a number of cultural experiences, some that relate to the field of digital audio effects. The first evening you have a concert with electroacoustic music and the second evening, in conjunction with our banquet, you will be entertained by live traditional Irish music by some of the best musicians in the country.

The University of Limerick is a young institution, with a history of just 29 years, but has played a major part in Ireland and Limerick's rebirth. Set on a magnificent parkland campus, beside the Shannon, the University is the centrepiece of the National Technological Park. The conference venue is the Computer Science and Information Systems Building which houses research groups, faculty offices, lecture theatres, display areas and a digital recording studio. For sports fans the university provides excellent facilities for swimming, tennis, squash, weights, running and quiet riverside jogging. Other essential services are also on hand, including banks, shops and, of course, a pub.

Over the last five years we have established two highly interdisciplinary Masters' programmes in Music Technology and Interactive Media, perhaps surprisingly, in the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems. In these courses we teach and research several of the topics related to the DAFx community such as acoustics, psychoacoustics, sound synthesis and analysis, filtering, recording and various other audio processing techniques.

Limerick is one of the cities in Ireland established by the Vikings in the 9th century. There are no visible remains from this period anymore, but the city centre still has several historical sites such as Saint Mary's Cathedral, King John's Castle, the Hunt Museum, and numerous Georgian buildings. In the surrounding county Limerick you have some of the richest farmland in the country, as well as the breathtaking Atlantic coast in the west, in our neighbour counties Clare and Kerry.

During your stay in Limerick, I hope you will meet friends and colleagues from the digital audio effects community, as well as Limerick people who I'm sure you will find to be people who care about people. I also hope you get the time to sit down in a real Irish pub with some of Ireland's famous beverages, and perhaps contemplate writing a Limerick!

Finally, I would like to thank all friends, colleagues and postgraduates who have worked intensively to make this conference possible. I would also like to thank the COST Action G6 Management committee for all their hard work and all the fun we have had over the last few years. And last, but not least, a big thanks to all participants!

Mikael Fernström
Chairman of the DAFx-01 Organising Committee