DIEM: Studio Report
Wayne Siegel, professor
The Danish Institute of Electronic Music
The Royal Danish Academy of Music, Aarhus
ws@musik-kons.dk

Abstract
DIEM is Denmark's national center of electronic music, funded by the Danish Ministry of Culture and situated in the Concert Hall in Aarhus, Denmark. This report describes a new organizational framework established in 2003 as well as recent activities that have taken place at DIEM.

1 Introduction
DIEM is Denmark's national center of electronic music, dedicated to supporting the production, teaching, research and performance of electronic music in Denmark. Since its opening in 1987, DIEM's artistic base has been broadly defined; its doors have been open to composers of all genres of electronic music, from live improvisation to acousmatic composition, from interactive installations to electronica. Studio residencies have been made available to composers and many works have been produced in the two professional production studios. DIEM has organized concerts and festivals with electronic music. In September 1994 DIEM hosted the 19th International Computer Music Conference.

Research carried out at DIEM includes the Digital Dance Project, which focused on gestural control of interactive music. DIEM has often worked in close cooperation with other Danish institutions in presenting concerts, seminars, workshops and master classes.

2 Reconstruction in 2003
Until 2003 DIEM was funded almost entirely by the Danish Music Council. In 2002 the Music Council decided to discontinue its support. After receiving strong protests from leading members of the national and international electronic music community, the Danish Minister of Culture intervened, allowing DIEM’s activities to continue as an integrated part of the Royal Academy of Music in Aarhus (DJM) from January 2003.

DJM is a state institution under the auspices of the Danish Ministry of Culture. The academy is responsible for higher education in music and for the general promotion of musical culture in Denmark. The Academy has classical and rhythmic music departments with a total student body of about 350.

3 Education
One advantage of DIEM’s fusion with DJM was the emergence of new possibilities in the area of education. DIEM had previously conducted its own workshops and master classes as well as long-term courses for other institutions, but its status as an independent organization did not allow DIEM to offer an accredited degree program. Steps were taken to set up an electronic music department at DJM and several new educational programs were initiated.

3.1 Degrees in electronic music
Bachelor/Master. In August 2004 a 5-year conservatory degree in electronic music composition was introduced at the academy. The program consists of a 3-year bachelor’s and a 2-year master’s designed for students who wish to compose and produce electronic music on a professional level. Emphasis is placed on helping creative artists develop compositional and technical skills. The program is broadly

Christian Vuust and Henrik Munch at the DJM Annual Festival 2003
based, bridging the gap between the classical and rhythmic departments of the academy.

There are no formal entrance requirements. The selection process is based on the evaluation of electronic compositions submitted by the applicants. Qualified applicants are invited for an interview as part of the selection process.

The program consists of courses in electronic music composition, acoustics, signal processing, audio engineering and the history and aesthetics of electronic music. Additional seminars and workshops are held on a regular basis.

**Master’s for professionals.** A master’s program in electronic music composition for working professionals was introduced in 2004. The program is based on a high degree of independent study and can be taken as either a one-year full time study program or a two-year part time study program.

**Acousmatic master class 2003.** An international master class on acousmatic music composition was held at the Royal Academy of Music November 25-27, 2003 by composers Robert Normandeau from Montreal and Natasha Barrett from Oslo. The master class focused on the aesthetics of acousmatic music, compositional approaches and sound diffusion, presenting a variety of viewpoints.

**4 Productions**

Production facilities include two professional studios with 5.1 surround Genelec monitor systems. Studio time is made available to composers without charge. Several sensor systems for interactive music including the DIEM Digital Dance System are also available. Recent productions include projects by Steingrimur Rohloff, Birgitte Alsted, Kristen Norderval, Bjørn Christiansen (aka Bjørn Svin), Per Hoier, Konrad Korabiewski and Wayne Siegel.

**5 Concerts**

DIEM is active in presenting and promoting concerts with electronic music.

In May, 2003, a 50th birthday portrait concert with works by Wayne Siegel for instruments and electronics was presented at the Concert Hall in Aarhus.

In October, 2003, a portrait concert with works by Birgitte Alsted was presented in Copenhagen.

A concert featuring music for ensemble and electronics by Argentinian composer Mario Mary was presented on November 26th in collaboration with Ensemble 2000. The concert was repeated at the Danish Radio Concert Hall in Copenhagen on November 22.

Three multi-channel concerts were presented November 25-27, 2003 in connection with an international master class. Concerts featured music by two guest composers, Robert Normandeau and Natasha Barrett, as well as works by master class participants. The concerts were held in the concert hall of the Royal Academy with a 16 channel Genelec speaker system.

Three concerts including the premiere of a multimedia work by Åke Parmerud and Kjell Yngve Petersen were presented at the art cinema “East of Eden” in Aarhus as part of the concert series Cinema for the Ear.

**6 Research**

**Electronic music in Denmark 1950 – 1975.** This is a project initiated in collaboration with the Sound Archives of the Danish National Library. The project goal is to locate, register, restore and preserve works by pioneers of electronic music in Denmark.

**Internet Patch Database.** This project is being carried out in collaboration with the Computer Science Department of the University of Copenhagen and the Danish company KeyToSound. The project goal is to develop methods for categorizing synthesizer patches for the NetSynth Pilot Synthesizer and to develop a client/server architecture that will enable users to upload, download and share large numbers of synthesis patches.

**7 Conclusion**

After a turbulent transition, the future of DIEM is now secure. Affiliation with a music academy has opened new possibilities in the area of education and research. Within this framework, DIEM is still strongly committed to supporting the production and presentation of electronic music in Denmark and to collaborating with artists and institutions locally and internationally.