Introduction
The Peabody Conservatory of Music, founded in 1857, has a long history of musical excellence. Electroacoustic music has played an important role at Peabody since the founding of the Electronic Music Studio in 1968. Peabody became affiliated with the Johns Hopkins University in 1977, making possible the expansion into the field of computer music using the computers and computer expertise available at the university. The Conservatory now offers a Master's degree in computer music and a new studio is being created to accommodate their needs.

The Electronic and Computer Music Department
The primary goals of the Electronic and Computer Music Department are composition, performance, research and education. Until recently these goals could be pursued either with an off-campus direct digital synthesis system, or in the original studio, which has evolved from a "classic" analog studio into a well-equipped MIDI facility.

The affiliation with the university has proven especially beneficial to the Computer Music Studio. Close ties have been established with many academic departments, especially the Psychology department. We have received several grants for psychophysical research, leading to several joint research projects, a new course (The Psychology of Sound and Music), and the development of software for the analysis and modification of sound.

The Computer Music Consort
The Computer Music Consort was founded in 1943 as a professional performing organization to bring composers and performers working in the field of electronic and computer music together with the public through lectures, commissions and concerts. In addition to a regular concert series at Peabody, the Consort has appeared in New York, the Kennedy Centre in Washington D.C., and many other halls. The concerts, which often include established classic electroacoustic works as well as avant-garde and multi-media performances, play regularly to sold out houses. Composers who have been guests of the Consort in recent years include Morton Subotnick, Dexter Morrill, Mario Davidovsky, Bruce Pennycook, Jacob Druckman and many others. The Computer Music Consort is always interested in new material and actively solicits new music for its programs.
Master of Music Degree

Peabody now offers a new Master's degree in Electronic and Computer Music. Students entering the program may choose one of three tracks within the degree: composition, research, or performance. All students take the core courses offered by the department in Studio Techniques, Synthesis Theory, and Programming as well as the Conservatory's own core curriculum. In the second year students take seminars related to their area of specialization, and must submit either a portfolio, recital, or thesis. We plan to establish an ongoing program of guest composers, researchers, and lecturers as part of our graduate program.

The New Studio

The new Computer Music Studio at Peabody is designed as a fully professional single-user facility, combining the most advanced MIDI synthesizers and software with a direct digital synthesis system. It will be used primarily for graduate level and post-doctoral research and composition. The original studio will continue to function as a classroom and beginner's studio.

The heart of the new facility is two computers, a NeXT and a Macintosh IIx. The NeXT is primarily for direct digital synthesis, using both CMusic and Csound. The Macintosh runs both commercial MIDI software and software developed at Peabody. It is equipped with Digidesign's Sound Tools package for direct-to-disk recording as well as sample editing for the MIDI instruments. The two computers communicate with each other (and other computers in the department) through Ethernet.

The remainder of the studio includes top-of-the-line MIDI equipment (MIDI controlled sound generators, signal processors and mixers), professional multitrack and mixing facilities, as well as digital and analog stereo mixdown decks. In addition, the two studios are connected with both audio and MIDI tie lines.

Conclusion

The Peabody Electronic and Computer Music Department has greatly expanded its activities in the last few years. The Conservatory has recently enjoyed a renewal of support from the State of Maryland as well as the Johns Hopkins University, and is in the midst of a fund raising campaign to increase its endowment to levels comparable to other major American conservatories. We look forward to increased participation in the computer music community. For further information on any of our activities please contact us at the above addresses.