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Department: Visualization

Year: 2nd year, Graduate Student

Project Name: Confluence

Project Description: Music Video - Fusion of Indian Classical Music and Blues

Instructor: Igor Kraguljac

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYifkY1X_vA

The project 'Confluence' was done for the class VIST – 465 Arts, Culture & Time Based Media. 'Confluence' standing for its literal meaning, was indeed a confluence of visual artists, musicians and technology. After seeing the band perform at various cultural events at A&M, I decided to approach them for a collaboration. Initially planned as an independent project, Confluence became a class project as our instructor Igor Kraguljac was interested in the idea. The diversity factor of this project is a multi-faceted one as we, Visual Artists from Department of Visualization collaborated with musicians (all of them are Indian Graduate Students) across various departments and colleges at A&M, and the collaboration further ventured into Department of Music in College of Liberal Arts as we recorded the music in their hi-tech music recording studio.

The music is a fusion of Indian Traditional Carnatic Music and Blues. The first part of the piece is the band's cover version of Indian Classical Keertana known as 'Jagadananda Karaka' which is one of the five ragas written in praise of Hindu Deity 'Rama' in Pancharatna Kirtis by Tyagaraja. The second 'Blues' part is the original composition of the lead guitarist. The composition was recorded in the recording studio in Department of Music using the best available recording gadgets in the university. The video production was long planned as it involved not only collaboration but also lots of scheduling and creative thought process. An Indian traditional themed set was erected in the video production studio in the Department of Visualization with LED Diyas and decorative lights. Three high-end video cameras were run to capture the performance in multiple angles and multiple takes were shot. The editing process took about few days to produce the final video. On release, it was well received by various audience. While the project is a collaborative one involving inputs and efforts from a team of 4-5 students, I thought it through from day one, initiated the works and played the most significant role in planning, scheduling, creative thinking and executing it.

Confluence was selected to be showcased in VizaGoGo, the annual show by the Department of Visualization showcasing best work from the graduate students. It also made its entry in the symposium 'Arts X TAMU' in November 2015 and was screened for an elite audience.

Thank you