CLAIMS

1. A music production system comprising:

a computer interface comprising at least one input for receiving an external request for a piece of music and at least one output for transmitting a response to the external request which comprises or indicates a piece of music incorporating first music data;

a first music production component configured to process second music data according to at least a first input setting so as to generate the first music data;

a second music production component configured to receive via the computer interface an internal request, and provide the second music data based on at least a second input setting denoted by the internal request; and

a controller configured to determine in response to the external request the first and second input settings, and instigate the internal request via the computer interface,

wherein the second music data comprises at least one music segment in digital musical notation format; and

wherein the controller is configured to determine search criteria in response to the external request, search a library for at least one music segment matching the search criteria, and instigate the internal request if no matching segment is located.

2. A music production system comprising:

a computer interface comprising at least one input for receiving an external request for a piece of music and at least one output for transmitting a response to the external request which comprises or indicates a piece of music incorporating first music data;

a first music production component configured to process second music data according to at least a first input setting so as to generate the first music data;

a second music production component configured to receive via the computer interface an internal request, and provide the second music data based on at least a second input setting denoted by the internal request; and

a controller configured to determine in response to the external request the first and second input settings, and instigate the internal request via the computer interface,

wherein the second music data comprises at least one music segment in digital musical notation format; and

wherein the second music production component is configured to select the at least one music segment from a library according to the second input setting.

3. A music production system comprising:

a computer interface comprising at least one input for receiving an external request for a piece of music and at least one output for transmitting a response to the external request which comprises or indicates a piece of music incorporating first music data;

a first music production component configured to process second music data according to at least a first input setting so as to generate the first music data;

a second music production component configured to receive via the computer interface an internal request, and provide the second music data based on at least a second input setting denoted by the internal request; and

a controller configured to determine in response to the external request the first and second input settings, and instigate the internal request via the computer interface,

wherein the second music data comprises at least one music segment in digital musical notation format; and

wherein the second music production component is configured to search a library for a music segment matching the second input setting, and if a matching segment is located, provide the located matching segment to the first music production component, and if no matching segment is located, cause a composition engine of the music production system to generate a music segment according to the second input setting and provide the generated music segment to the first production component.

4. The system according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein at least one of the first music production component and the second music production component is configured to generate music segments for the library.

5. A music production system comprising:

a computer interface comprising at least one input for receiving an external request for a piece of music and at least one output for transmitting a response to the

external request which comprises or indicates a piece of music incorporating first music data;

a first music production component configured to process second music data according to at least a first input setting so as to generate the first music data;

a second music production component configured to receive via the computer interface an internal request, and provide the second music data based on at least a second input setting denoted by the internal request; and

a controller configured to determine in response to the external request the first and second input settings, and instigate the internal request via the computer interface,

wherein the first music production component is an audio engine configured to generate the first music data as audio data.

6. A music production system comprising:

a computer interface comprising at least one input for receiving an external request for a piece of music and at least one output for transmitting a response to the external request which comprises or indicates a piece of music incorporating first music data;

a first music production component configured to process second music data according to at least a first input setting so as to generate the first music data;

a second music production component configured to receive via the computer interface an internal request, and provide the second music data based on at least a second input setting denoted by the internal request; and

a controller configured to determine in response to the external request the first and second input settings, and instigate the internal request via the computer interface,

wherein one of either:

the second music data comprises at least one music segment in digital musical notation format; or

the first music production component is an audio engine configured to generate the first music data as audio data; and

wherein the audio engine is configured to render the at least one music segment according to the first input setting to generate the audio data.

7. A music production system comprising:

a computer interface comprising at least one input for receiving an external request for a piece of music and at least one output for transmitting a response to the external request which comprises or indicates a piece of music incorporating first music data;

a first music production component configured to process second music data according to at least a first input setting so as to generate the first music data;

a second music production component configured to receive via the computer interface an internal request, and provide the second music data based on at least a second input setting denoted by the internal request; and

a controller configured to determine in response to the external request the first and second input settings, and instigate the internal request via the computer interface,

wherein the first music production component is configured to generate the first music data in the form of at least one music segment in digital musical notation format.

8. The system according to claim 7, wherein the request manager is configured to allocate each request based on a type of the request.

9. The system according to claim 7, wherein the request manager is configured to allocate the external request to a first queue for processing by the controller, and the internal request to a second queue for processing by the second music production component.

10. A music production system comprising:

a computer interface comprising at least one input for receiving an external request for a piece of music and at least one output for transmitting a response to the external request which comprises or indicates a piece of music incorporating first music data;

a first music production component configured to process second music data according to at least a first input setting so as to generate the first music data;

a second music production component configured to receive via the computer interface an internal request, and provide the second music data based on at least a second input setting denoted by the internal request;

a controller configured to determine in response to the external request the first and second input settings, and instigate the internal request via the computer interface; and

a request manager configured to allocate the external request to the controller and the internal request to the second music production component.

11. The system according to claim 10, wherein the type of the request is one of: an audio type, and a musical notation type.

12. A music production system comprising:

a computer interface comprising at least one input for receiving an external request for a piece of music and at least one output for transmitting a response to the external request which comprises or indicates a piece of music incorporating first music data;

a first music production component configured to process second music data according to at least a first input setting so as to generate the first music data;

a second music production component configured to receive via the computer interface an internal request, and provide the second music data based on at least a second input setting denoted by the internal request; and

a controller configured to determine in response to the external request the first and second input settings, and instigate the internal request via the computer interface,

wherein the first or second input settings comprise at least one of the following: a style parameter, a time signature, a track duration, a number of musical measures, and one or more musical parts.

13. A music production system comprising:

a computer interface comprising at least one input for receiving an external request for a piece of music and at least one output for transmitting a response to the external request which comprises or indicates a piece of music incorporating first music data;

a first music production component configured to process second music data according to at least a first input setting so as to generate the first music data;

a second music production component configured to receive via the computer interface an internal request, and provide the second music data based on at least a second input setting denoted by the internal request; and

a controller configured to determine in response to the external request the first and second input settings, and instigate the internal request via the computer interface,

wherein the second music data is rendered available to the controller by a response to the internal request.

14. The system according to claim 13, wherein the second music production component is configured to store the second music data in a database in association with an identifier, wherein the response comprises the identifier and thereby renders the second music data available to the controller.

15. A music production system comprising:

a computer interface comprising at least one input for receiving an external request for a piece of music and at least one output for transmitting a response to the external request which comprises or indicates a piece of music incorporating first music data;

a first music production component configured to process second music data according to at least a first input setting so as to generate the first music data;

a second music production component configured to receive via the computer interface an internal request, and provide the second music data based on at least a second input setting denoted by the internal request;

a controller configured to determine in response to the external request the first and second input settings, and instigate the internal request via the computer interface; and

a request manager configured to assign respective identifiers to the external and internal requests, wherein the controller is configured to store, in electronic storage, the first music data in association with the identifier assigned to the external request and the second music data in association with the identifier assigned to the internal request.

16. A music production system comprising:

a computer interface comprising at least one input for receiving requests and at least one output for outputting a response to each of the requests;

a request manager configured to allocate each of the requests based on a type of the request to one of a plurality of job queues;

an audio engine configured to generate in response to a first request allocated to a first of the job queues audio data for a piece of music, wherein the response to the first request renders the audio data available to a source of that request; and

a composition engine configured to generate in response to a second request allocated to a second of the job queues at least one music segment in digital musical notation format, wherein the response to the second request renders the at least one music segment available to a source of that request,

wherein the request manager is configured to assign to each of the requests a unique job identifier.

17. The system according to claim 16, wherein the response to each request comprises the job identifier assigned to that request.

18. The system according to claim 16,

wherein the audio engine is configured to store the audio data in a database in association with the job identifier assigned to the first request such that the audio data is rendered available by the job identifier in the response to the first request; and

wherein the composition engine is configured to store the at least one music segment in the or another database in association with the job identifier assigned to the second request such that the at least one music segment is rendered available by the job identifier in the response to the second request.

19. A music production system comprising:

a computer interface comprising at least one input for receiving requests and at least one output for outputting a response to each of the requests;

a request manager configured to allocate each of the requests based on a type of the request to one of a plurality of job queues;

an audio engine configured to generate in response to a first request allocated to a first of the job queues audio data for a piece of music, wherein the response to the first request renders the audio data available to a source of that request; and

a composition engine configured to generate in response to a second request allocated to a second of the job queues at least one music segment in digital musical notation format, wherein the response to the second request renders the at least one music segment available to a source of that request,

wherein the first request is an external request.

20. A music production system comprising:

a computer interface comprising at least one input for receiving requests and at least one output for outputting a response to each of the requests;

a request manager configured to allocate each of the requests based on a type of the request to one of a plurality of job queues;

an audio engine configured to generate in response to a first request allocated to a first of the job queues audio data for a piece of music, wherein the response to the first request renders the audio data available to a source of that request;

a composition engine configured to generate in response to a second request allocated to a second of the job queues at least one music segment in digital musical notation format, wherein the response to the second request renders the at least one music segment available to a source of that request; and

a controller coupled to the first job queue and configured to receive the first request from the first job queue and instigate the generation of the audio data by the audio engine in response to the first request.

21. The system according to claim 20, wherein the second request is an internal request instigated by the controller in response to the first request.

22. The system according to claim 21, wherein the controller is configured to receive the response to the second request, obtain the at least one music segment, and provide the at least one music segment to the audio engine to instigate the generation of the audio data based on the at least one music segment.

23. A music production system comprising:

a computer interface comprising at least one input for receiving requests and at least one output for outputting a response to each of the requests;

a request manager configured to allocate each of the requests based on a type of the request to one of a plurality of job queues;

an audio engine configured to generate in response to a first request allocated to a first of the job queues audio data for a piece of music, wherein the response to the first request renders the audio data available to a source of that request; and

a composition engine configured to generate in response to a second request allocated to a second of the job queues at least one music segment in digital musical notation format, wherein the response to the second request renders the at least one music segment available to a source of that request,

wherein the second request is an external request.

24. The system according to claim 23, wherein the second job queue is coupled to the composition engine such that the external second request is routed to the composition engine directly.