

**Robert Wechsler**

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Choreographer  
Dancer  
Developer of Interactive  
Performance Systems

D.O.B.: April 8, 1955

**2010 - 2013 Project Director >> MotionComposer**

The MotionComposer is a device for persons with and without disabilities that turns movement into music. This perhaps simple idea has broad-reaching implications for therapy and creative expression particularly for those individuals who, for reasons of mental or physical disability may be less engaged in typical society.

The device is being developed and will be marketed by IMM-Holding, Germany, with assistance provided by Bauhaus University and the Franz Liszt College of Music. Major start-up funding was provided by the German Ministry for Technology and Finance and current project development is being supported by the European Union.

Registered as inventor and holder six patents (pending). Product release: April 2014. More information: [www.motioncomposer.com](http://www.motioncomposer.com).

**1982 - 2013 Artistic Director, Choreographer, Dancer >> Palindrome Intermedia Performance Group**

Winners of both the Berlin Transmediale (2002) and the Cynet Computer Art Festival Competition (2001), Palindrome has a reputation for its pioneering work in the use of new technology with dance. The company includes performers and engineers (developers of software and hardware), choreographers, composers, video and graphic artists. Together they form an international touring ensemble which presents work at the vanguard of intermedia art. Performance history and repertory are at [www.palindrome.de](http://www.palindrome.de).

Responsibilities include overseeing artistic aspects of productions, including dance, choreography, music, theater, video and installation art. With new projects each year, Palindrome has created dozens of works for museums (installations), concert halls, alternative spaces (office buildings, a power plant, a design museum, a trade fair) as well as formal theaters. In 2006 and 2007 Palindrome created two full-length operas, one, "Blinde Liebe" premiere at the San Francisco International Arts Festival; and "Jenseits Der Schatten" which was produced by the Bonn City Opera.

**2006 - 2013 Consultant, Lecturer, Workshop Leader >> Freelance**

Motion tracking technology especially in artistic applications and in service persons with disabilities.

Second International MotionComposer Workshop und Symposium, Franz Liszt HS für Musik, Bauhaus University, May 2013.  
CATCH FORUM 2013, International Forum on Cultures–Arts–Technologies–Creations–Disabilities, CIANT, April 2013  
Schule am Burkersdorferweg und Studentinnen der Palucca HS für Tanz, Workshop/Performance, January 2013  
Innovationsforum Mittweida, IMM-Gruppe, Performance, March 2013  
Casa Paganini - Infomus, Università degli Studi di Genova, Lecture, October 2012  
22. Internationale Wissenschaftliche Konferenz, Mittweida, Germany, Lecture, Workshop, October 2012  
Einstein Kultur Zentrum, Workshop für Menschen mit und ohne Behinderung, München, October 2012  
»Innovative Computerbasierte Musikinterfaces«, Mensch&Computer, Konstanz, Germany, Lecture, September 2012  
Ostrale'012, Dresden, Workshop Event, August 2012  
Comprovisations Workshop and Conference, at Hexagram, Concordia University, Montréal, Canada, Performance, May 2012.  
Valladolid Spain with persons with disabilities, students and therapists, Workshop May 2012.  
SEAM, Franz Liszt College of Music, Bauhaus University, Workshop and Symposium, May 2012  
CeBit, Hannover, Product Presentation, March 2012  
LearnTec Messe, Karlsruhe, January 2012  
Workshop + Roundtable, CIRMMT, McGill University, February 2012  
Schule am Burkersdorfer Weg, Dresden, Workshop, October 2011  
PDCON:START Pure Data Convention 2011 – A festival of programmed music and art, Presentation, August 2011  
Studio für elektroakustische Musik (SeaM), Weimar, Germany, Seminar, June 2010

Colloquium Kultur und Digitalisierung, L'arc Romainmotier, Switzerland, Lecture series, May 2010  
 FEUP - Faculdade de Engenharia da Universidade do Porto, Portugal, Workshop, May 2010  
 Savannah Arts Academy, Savannah GA, USA, Workshop/Seminar, February 2010  
 IXDA, Interaction Design Conference, Savannah, GA, USA, Workshop/Seminar, February 2010  
 Eyesweb Week 2010, Genova, Italy, Seminar, April 2010  
 FUNDACIÓN MÚSICA ABIERTA, Valladolid, Spain, Forschungsprojekt mit Menschen mit Behinderung, April 2010  
 University of Missouri, USA, Artist in Residence, Workshop/Seminar, March 2010  
 Denison University, Seminar, Workshop/Seminar, November 2009  
 ISIS-Symmetry Conference, Budapest, Performance, August 2009  
 The GENEVA SESSION '09, Workshop/Seminar, June 2009  
 Ohio State University, Workshop/Seminar, May 2009  
 Taipei University, Taiwan, Keynote Address and concert, WOCMAT conference October 2009  
 Tainan University, Kaoshung, Workshop/Seminar und Konzert, October 2009  
 Missouri State University, Workshop/Seminar, May 2009  
 AMBER digital arts festival, Istanbul, Turkey, Workshop/Seminar, November 2009  
 Workshops: Ohio State University, Missouri State University, DNA New York City, NY, Workshops/Seminars, 2009

2004 - 2006 **Program Chair >> Doncaster College, Hull University, England**

Co-founder and first director of (reportedly) England's first Masters Degree program in Digital Performance. Located in Doncaster, England, it is an auxiliary campus of Hull University.

**PUBLICATIONS** (Reprints of some are available at [www.palindrome.de/content/pubs](http://www.palindrome.de/content/pubs) or [www.motioncomposer.org](http://www.motioncomposer.org).)

- Wechsler, R.; MotionComposer: a device for persons with (and without) disabilities. Strategies for coherent mapping in movement-to-music interactive systems. A live demonstration with audience participation. Proceedings of the International Forum on Cultures – Arts – Technologies – Creations – Disabilities, April 2013, National Technical Library, Prague, Czech Republic (a production of CIANT | International Centre for Art and New Technologies)
- Konteogergakopoulos, A., Wechsler, R., Keay-Bright, W., "Camera-Based Motion-Tracking and Performing Arts for Persons with Motor Disabilities and Autism", book chapter in Assistive Technologies, Disability Informatics and Computer Access for Motor Limitations, IGI Global. 2013.
- Wechsler, R.; "Applications of Motion Tracking in Making Music for Persons with Disabilities", Proceedings 4. Workshop of »Innovative Computerbasierte Musikinterfaces«, Mensch&Computer, Konstanz, Oldenbourg Wissenschaftsverlag, 2012.
- Acitores, A.P.; Wechsler, R., "DANZA INTERACTIVA CON NIÑOS PARÁLISIS CEREBRAL, XXVII Congreso de la Asociación Española de Logopedia, Foniatría y Audiología, 7, 8 y 9 de julio de 2010, Valladolid, Spain.
- Wechsler, R.; essays on dance and technology, [www.palindrome.de/content/essays](http://www.palindrome.de/content/essays). 2009-2012.
- Wechsler, R., "Artistic Considerations in the Use of Motion Tracking with Live Performers", Performance and Technology - Practices of Virtual Embodiment and Interactivity, Edited by Susan Broadhurst and Josephine Machon, Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.
- Rovan, B., Wechsler, R., Weiss, F., "Artistic Collaboration in an Interactive Dance and Music Performance Environment: Seine hohle Form, project report and performance"; The 9th New York Digital Salon, Leonardo Magazine; December 2001.
- Kick, A., Wechsler, R., "Palindrome's Interactive Dance and Music Performance Systems and Performances", Cast01: Conference on Communication of Art, Science and Technology, September 2001 / GMD - Schloss Birlinghoven, Sankt Augustin / Bonn, September 2001.
- Rovan, B., Wechsler, R., Weiss, F., "Artistic Collaboration in an Interactive Dance and Music Performance Environment: Seine hohle Form, a project report"; COSIGN2001: Conference on Computational Semiotics in Amsterdam, September 2001.
- Rovan, B., Wechsler, R., Weiss, F., "...Seine hohle Form...": Artistic Collaboration in an Interactive Dance and Music Performance Environment", Proceedings, COSIGN 2001: Computational Semiotics for Games and New Media, Centrum voor Wiskunde en Informatica, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, February 2001.
- Rovan, B., Wechsler, R., Weiss, F., "The multi-dimensional mapping of movement-to-sound within an integrated *Eyecon* and *jMax* Environment; Performance of *Seine Hohle Form...* ", ISEA2000 10<sup>e</sup> Symposium International des Arts Électroniques, Paris, December 2000.
- Menicacci, A., Wechsler, R., et al.; Danza e nuove tecnologie (book); Ufficio Cultura, Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano Alto, Bozano, Italy, May 2000.
- Wechsler, R. and Zwiauer, H., "Les ordinateurs et la danse: retour vers l'avenir?", Nouvelles de Danse, 40/41, Winter 99.

## PRIZES, GRANTS

2013	EU funding for Palindrome IMPG, for MetaBody, 270,000 euro.
2011	EXIST, grant for new product development by German Ministry for Technology and Finance, 100,000 euro.
2010	GFAW, grant for new business owners, European Sozial Fonds
2008	AMBER - digital arts festival in Istanbul, Turkey
2006	Jury selection, MDDF, Monaco Dance Forum
2004	Jury selection, MDDF, Monaco Dance Forum
2002	First prize, Berlin Transmediale, category: Interactive Art
2000	First prize for new Multimedia creation, CYNETart, Festival of Computer Art
2000	Project grant from the Bavarian Association for Contemporary Dance
1999	First prize in the category Arts and Culture, Nürnberg Innovation Competition
1999	Honorable mention, Berlin Transmediale
1989 - 2008	Kulturreferat Nürnberg, yearly company support (Palindrome Dance Company, e.V.)
1992	Stadt Erlangen, Project Grant ("Facing America")
1984	Fulbright Commission, Fellowship and Travel Grant

## EDUCATION

1996-98	Columbia University, courses in computer science
1979-88	Merce Cunningham Studio (company-class), numerous workshops with Cunningham and John Cage
1981-85	Maggie Black, Professional Ballet Training, New York City
1981-83	Master of Arts, New York University; Gallatin Division, Choreography
1975-79	Bachelor of Fine Arts, State University of New York, College at Purchase, Dance.
1973-75	Iowa State University, Biochemistry Major.

## ARTISTIC OEUVRE

See [www.palindrome.de](http://www.palindrome.de) for videos, reviews and repertory information.