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Prof. Marcelo M. Wanderley  
McGill University - Montreal, Canada

Montreal, May 21<sup>st</sup> 2008

To:  
Dutch Council of Culture  
The Netherlands

Dear Sir, Madam,

It is with great surprise and serious concern that I heard that STEIM is in danger of losing structural funding from the Dutch Government.

As a researcher in the field of novel input devices for musical expression, I consider STEIM to be *the world reference* in this field. Not only they were pioneers in designing novel devices, but the extensive musical use of such interfaces has without any doubt changed the way the international artistic and research communities see this type of artistic performance. STEIM's impact worldwide is major and unquestionable.

The importance of STEIM for this area has long been recognized internationally. In fact, as the organizer of the 2003 International Conference on New Interfaces for Musical Expression (NIME03), I have invited several STEIM researchers to Montreal (Michel Waisvisz was one of the conference's Keynote Speakers) with *carte blanche* to show their know-how and share their unique expertise in talks and workshops during the event.

The possibility of losing STEIM because of the lack of structural funding would be a major negative impact for the whole artistic community. For me, and for many colleagues overseas, STEIM *is* the Netherlands. Thanks to STEIM we discovered this country and we learned to respect its cultural scene. For me, losing STEIM would be a similar blow as closing the Rijksmuseum. Not only the Netherlands, but Europe as a whole would be giving away one of the most important cultural assets, an asset that is envied by countries worldwide.

I therefore strongly support STEIM's struggle to obtain its structural funding and urge the Dutch Council of Culture to reconsider funding the institute to a level that allows them to continue their outstanding work.

Best regards,

Prof. Marcelo M. Wanderley, Director  
Input Devices and Music Interaction Laboratory  
McGill University