# NJIT TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY FORUM

## MUSIC IMPROVISATION SOFTWARE: AN INTERFACE FOR PEOPLE WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES

#### **SPEAKER** PAULINE OLIVEROS

Founder, Deep Listening Institute Ltd. Distinguished Research Professor of Music Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. NJIT CAMPUS CENTER ATRIUM

Music has many virtues — including the potential to benefit individuals whose mobility is severely impaired by cerebral palsy and spinal injuries. In the first of a new series of Technology and Society Forum presentations, Pauline Oliveros and colleagues from the Deep Listening Institute will demonstrate software that makes it possible to improvise music with slight head movements. This software extends the expressive, holistic and therapeutic benefits of musical improvisation to both adults and children.

Founder and executive director of the Deep Listening Institute, based at Rensselaer, Oliveros is also a Distinguished Research Professor of Music. For fifty years, Oliveros has been an important figure in contemporary American music as a composer and performer. She has had a major influence through her work with improvisation, meditation and electronic music.

Oliveros will be joined by Jaclyn Heyen and Leaf Miller. Heyen is a composer, vocalist and music technologist. Currently, she is technology assistant at the Deep Listening Institute and assists in the Adaptive Use program at Abilities First in Poughkeepsie, New York. Leaf Miller is a professional musician, teacher, occupational therapist and instrument builder. In her work with children with special needs, she strives to incorporate the healing benefits of drumming with her clinical training in human movement and development. She is collaborating with Oliveros and the Deep Listening Institute on the Adaptive Use Musical Instrument Project, with the goal of developing alternative musical instruments for people with physical challenges.

#### For More Information: Contact Jay Kappraff, kappraff@adm.njit.edu or 973-596-3490

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NJIT welcomes attendees from Essex County College, Rutgers-Newark, and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

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