

# LAPTOP ORCHESTRA OF ARIZONA STATE: THE STUDENT VENTURE

*Diana Siwiak*

Arizona State University  
School of Arts, Media + Engineering  
diana.siwiak@asu.edu

## ABSTRACT

Laptop Orchestra of Arizona State (LOrkAS) an experimental sonic art performance collective, which integrates technology and [sonic art, visual displays, and interactive expression]. We are graduate, undergraduate, and industry researchers from various academic backgrounds and disciplines. Director Diana Siwiak, a Stanford Laptop Orchestra (SLOrk) alumna and ASU Media, Arts, and Sciences doctoral student, founded the troupe in Fall 2010. We are currently the only solely student-managed ensemble in the nation. Our poster presentation will feature a virtual discussion detailing the trials and tribulations of starting our own LOrk.

Some of the important benefits of being solely student-managed include the freedom for innovation, learning and honing leadership skills, starting a non-profit performance group from scratch, and, most importantly, keeping the troupe alive and sustainable. We each personally invested in the group and claim a sense of direct ownership. We will further detail more benefits at the Symposium as each day brings new, rewarding surprises!

Some of the important detriments include lack of funding and support (which lead to us finding creative ways to get a similar effect, as if we were to have the money and resources) and the inability to reward members for their time commitments through such facets as course credit

Despite all odds, we have managed to create a hacker-space for LOrks such that almost anyone can now create a LOrk.