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Laptop Orchestra of Louisiana to Perform at the Manship Theatre

The Laptop Orchestra of Louisiana, or LOLs, will be performing on April 4 at the Manship Theatre, Shaw Center for the Arts, in Baton Rouge, LA, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 or \$10 for students.

An orchestra in a laptop? That's the goal of the LOL. This innovative group of musicians uses ordinary off-the-shelf laptop computers to produce sounds of an entire band alongside sounds so unfamiliar that you wonder if they can be found in nature. Comprised of faculty and students from the LSU School of Music's Experimental Music & Digital Media program, the LOLs are focused on creating musical experiences that push beyond the boundaries of music with exciting programs of compositions for instruments, computers, iPads, joysticks, Wii-motes, webcams and video.

"Laptops and computational science are giving musicians a new paradigm for creating music," said Stephen David Beck, Derryl & Helen Haymon Professor of Music in the LSU School of Music and LOL co-director. "The laptop orchestra is not meant to replace real orchestras. Rather, it uses the metaphor of the orchestra as a new way of teaching, creating, and performing computer music. The LOL provides new avenues in which students can compose, interact, and experiment with sound, merging technology with the artistic process."

"This year's concert will be a mix of brand new works along with a few of our favorites. Our new pieces include music for webcams and glowing objects, a composition for shofar, conch, and laptops, music for laptops and video, and music based on twitter and Facebook status feeds. We will also be debuting our custom-made hemispherical speakers, which bring a more natural presence to our sounds."

The Laptop Orchestra of Louisiana is a collaborative research project of LSU's School of Music and the Center for Computation & Technology and is part of the center's AVATAR Initiative in Digital Media.

For more information on the concert or to purchase tickets, contact the Manship Theatre Box Office at 225-344-0334 or visit <http://www.manshiptheatre.org/>.

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