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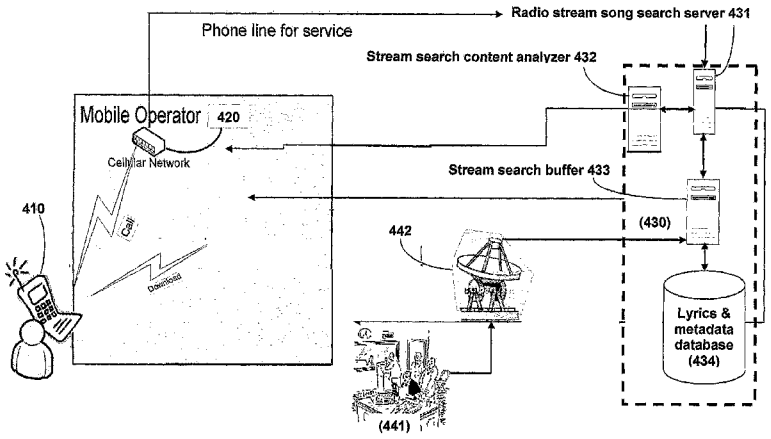
(54) **Title**: A METHOD AND A SYSTEM FOR REAL TIME MUSIC PLAYBACK SYNCRONIZATION, DEDICATED PLAYERS, LOCATING AUDIO CONTENT, FOLLOWING MOST LISTENED-TO LISTS AND PHRASE SEARCHING FOR SING-ALONG



(57) **Abstract**: A method for language translation of lyrics by subscribers and a database containing synchronization tables. One method includes accessing by subscribers to original lines in English, e.g., filling in the language translation and vocally recording each line, thereby providing an automatic language lesson to any language from any language that has previously been translated. Another embodiment enables subscribers to play music produced by a particular musical artist on a music player dedicated to the artist. The method includes choosing a musical artist to whom said music player will be dedicated, bundling a þnumber of songs of said artist into a music player dedicated to said artist, displaying a listing of the artist's productions and enabling the artist to communicate directly with his portion of the subscribers and enabling a group of local subscribers having playback devices to synchronize a display of song lyrics to a timer.

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A METHOD AND A SYSTEM FOR REAL TIME MUSIC PLAYBACK SYNCHRONIZATION, DEDICATED PLAYERS, LOCATING AUDIO CONTENT, FOLLOWING MOST LISTENED-TO LISTS AND PHRASE SEARCHING FOR SING-ALONG

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

The present application claims the benefit of priority under 35 USC § 119(e) to United States Provisional Patent Applications 61/166,743 filed Aug, 14, 2008, entitled "A Method And Social Network System For Music Players, Each Dedicated To A Particular Musical Artist," 61/088,727 filed Apr. 5, 2009 "A Method And A System For Real Time Local Music Playback And Remote Server Lyric Timing Synchronization With Playlists And Translations," 61/152,368 filed Feb. 13, 2009 "A Method And System For Locating Audio Material For Coordination With Corresponding Synched Text," 61/184343 filed Jun. 5, 2009 "A Method And System For Automatically Creating "Follow Me" Of Following A Musical Composition Playlist" and 61/094,954 filed Sept. 7, 2008 "A Method For Searching Video And Audio Files For A Phrase Or Phrases And Enabling Simultaneous Sing-Along And Chat," all of which are hereby incorporated herein in their entirety by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to a real-time access to digital multimedia files over a communications network, and more particularly to a method and a system to provides synchronization of music, dedicated players, locating audio content, following most listened-to lists and phrase searching for sing-along.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Synchronization (or Sync) is a problem in timekeeping which requires the coordination of events to operate systems in unison. The familiar conductor of an orchestra serves to keep the individual players in an orchestra in time to each other and to the score. Systems operating with all their parts in synchrony are said to be synchronous or in sync.

The acoustic or electrical signal of music with vocals and the textual lyrics constitute two correlated views of the same source. In karaoke one synchronizes the lyrics to the music, so that a subscriber can sing along. Synchronization of the audio file

and text may be done with the help of alignment metadata that have been pre-stored in the audio file. Also known are the processing of karaoke media in which video and audio streams are already synchronized. The problem is not one of lyric transcription, but one of alignment. This is reasonable because textual lyrics for songs are often freely available on the Internet.

There is huge amount of music and a huge amount of lyrics. Sometimes, there is a karaoke file, but most of the time there is not. So most of the music humanity created cannot be synced to their lyrics, because making a karaoke file is labor intensive and expensive.

When a song e.g. - music with vocals, is performed, the exact timing relationship of the words to the music is created. Interestingly, while the score may show general placement, the actual timing is only created when the words are sung in time with the music. This sung word to written word (lyrics) timing can only be derived later by a person carefully recording the timing relationship of each sung word to the written lyric word. This has been done with varying degrees of accuracy for a small number of songs by karaoke manufacturers. However it is very time consuming to derive this sync data. In addition to the millions of existing songs, each day thousands of new songs are published making it impossible with current techniques to provide an affordable source of synchronization data for lyrics to music.

It wouldn't be handhelds that would kill dedicated music players, but advanced cell phones that combine features of handhelds and music players into one phone package. Why wouldn't they have a strong shot at making the converged smartphone device of the future, assuming that music playing is a strong reason to buy a smartphone? Nokia already outsources most of its manufacturing work to shops in China and Taiwan. Microsoft's first Windows-powered mobile phone, Orange Communications SPV, was made by Taiwan-based HTC. Why couldn't Apple do the same thing?

They'd need an operating system, but there's no shortage of them for mobile devices: Symbian, Palm, Linux, even Windows, assuming Apple could consider an OS from its arch-rival. Furthermore, the iPod has given them considerable experience with consumer electronics, and nobody doubts the skills of Apple hardware designers.

The iPod is a perfect example of a globally innovated product, combining technologies from the U.S., Japan and a number of Asian countries. In the past, large electronics companies designed and developed their own products, often using internally-produced components. Such highly integrated companies created and captured a large share of the value of innovation, mostly in their home countries. Since then, supply chains in the global electronics industry have steadily disaggregated across corporate and national boundaries (Sturgeon, 2002; Dedrick and Kraemer, 1998).

Finding new music to listen to when the consumer is fed up with the repetitive brew of music offering my normal marketing channels of the music industry and the inability of the independent music artist to reach a vast audience have created a shallow music experience worldwide; The top 1000 songs in the applicant's owned music service covers about 80% of all songs played worldwide variety wise. There is no financial incentive to the music promoters to access the "long tail" of music, hence from about ten million compositions in the applicant's database, one in ten thousands enjoy any meaningful audience and most of that is the standard fare of the big music labels.

Thus it would be advantageous to provide real time music playback synchronization, dedicated players and the ability to locate audio content and to follow along with most listened-to lists.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is a principal object of the present invention to provide a Top 50 Playlist from the Internet so that a subscriber to a system for real time local music playback and remote server lyric timing synchronization can select from the playlist.

It is one other principal object of the present invention to provide a live playlist:, which is a list of the current top 50 songs, categorized worldwide, or nationally or any other way, will be developed in real time.

It is another principal object of the present invention to provide a playlist where the subscriber can play any of the songs with one click.

It is yet one other principal object of the present invention to enable a plurality of subscribers to play music produced by a particular musical artist of their choice on a music player dedicated to said artist.

It is a further principal object of the present invention to provide a proprietary Web site to identify and locate subscribers comprising the collective fan base for a particular musical artist.

It is yet a further principal object of the present invention to provide a system and method where subscribers can participate in a social network dedicated to a particular musical artist.

It is still another principal object of the present invention to enable a proprietary Web site to identify a radio broadcast stream where a song specified by a subscriber is found, and then to retrieve the lyrics of the song and synchronize the song segment of the stream with the lyrics.

It is still a further principal object of the present invention to provide a system and method where subscribers can be connected to radio stations playing their favorite kinds of music.

It is still one other principal object of the present invention to accommodate multiple private lists each subscriber prepares.

It is still yet one other principal object of the present invention for a proprietary Web site to identify a musical taste influence leader central to a social network.

It is still yet one further principal object of the present invention for followers of a musical taste influence leader to automatically receive information each time the leader plays a rendition of a song on his playback device and the followers' playback devices automatically play the same exact rendition for them.

It is still yet one more principal object of the present invention to provide real-time access to digital multimedia files over a communications network, and to enable searching for words or phrases on a Web site database containing lyrics in audio and video files.

It is still yet an additional principal object of the present invention to enable participants to sing-along in synch with a music video and text-chat with each other.

It is still yet an added principal object of the present invention to provide an engine that searches for audio lyrics in audio/video content, i.e., a multimedia search.

A method is disclosed for language translation and access to song lyrics by a plurality of subscribers to a Wiki Web site that provides a database containing synchronization timing tables utilizing synchronization of music and lyrics playback. The method includes the subscribers accessing a set of original lines in a language Wiki for a song in English or any other language of origin, filling in the language translation word by

word and/or phrase by phrase by one of the Wiki subscribers to a second language and vocally recording each of the lines in the second language, thereby providing an automatic language lesson **to** any language **from** any language that has been translated.

Search based on synch:

After a song is synched the text in the line can be searched and the system returns a time code indicating where in the audio or video the text was found. Thus, the system can return the exact location of the text in the audio or video file.

Subscribers can click and find what they were looking for at the exact location and do not need to hear the audio or watch the video from the start.

TuneWiki for sport activities:

Many music lovers listen to their music while jogging. With the spread of global positioning systems (GPS) in handheld units, the subscriber can receive location, speed and or distance information while listening to the music and with relation to the time frames of the music being played.

For example, while jogging and listening to music, the plug-in player module will provide a voice overlay to "tell" the jogger: "you are running at x miles per hours... you ran 3.2 miles since the start."

Or when a new song begins the system will say: "You will cover 1.2 miles if you jog at the same pace you are running at now," or "You burned xx calories since you started running."

The community aspect will also be voice activated by the subscriber/jogger: "runners around you are listening to ..."The runner approaching you, now 1 mile ahead, is listening to xxxx, to listen to his song press ..."

Charts based on Geophysical location:

Exemplary, pre-selected areas are: Yale University campus, Elementary School Y in Beverly Hills, CA. Any song initiated from the selected area will be represented in the chart of that institution. Thus, a chart for Yale University Campus will reflect real subscribers listening to music in that area.

Subscribers selected areas: Through a graphic user interface (GUI), subscribers will be able to define geographical areas, and the system will automatically be able to build

charts from that area. So, if a subscriber defines the borders of Bellbrook, OH, a chart of music played by Tunewiki subscribers in Bellbrook, Oh will be automatically generated.

Community aspect.

When a song is played, the subscriber can choose search parameters from a menu to try to find from where this song is emanating. The command is sent to search the site database, as to where this song is being played and the location is displayed on a map.

Charts based on Activity.

Through a subscriber interface Tunewiki subscribers can specify their current activity and charts will be built based on various groupings of people performing the same activities:

Examples:

Top 50 people reading and listening to music;
Top 50 people running and listening to music;
Top 50 people cooking and listening to music;
Top 50 people walking and listening to music;
Top 50 people biking and listening to music; and
Top 50 people homesick and listening to music.

Using sync information from audio to synch video:

The present invention can take the timing information gathered in audio format and use it to sync a video containing the same music or MP3 file.

In another exemplary embodiment, the present invention provides a method to enable a plurality of subscribers to play music produced by a particular musical artist of their choice on a music player dedicated to the artist. The method includes bundling a number of songs, lyrics, albums, CD's, videos exclusively by each artist into a music player dedicated to each artist and choosing by subscribers of a musical artist to whom their music players will be dedicated. The method also includes displaying on the screen of each player, a listing of the bundled of the dedicated artist and selecting and playing songs from the list. The method includes enabling the artist to communicate directly with the portion of the subscribers who have dedicated their player to him and to

communicate directly with subscribers who have through their twitter, facebook or myspace accounts or a special messaging system in the player. Finally, the method includes participating by the subscribers in a social network dedicated to the artist and locating subscribers on music maps and enabling the managers to plan activities.

This will create an instant social network of the artist within the player. The player will have the rest of the artist songs in 30 sec trial and buy mode. The files in the player will be exportable to other player including a tunewiki player.

In another exemplary embodiment, after locating a musical selection for a subscriber, the proprietary Web site can sync lyrics or subtitles to any radio station on the Internet, automatically or semi-automatically. In semi-automatic mode, the exact timing of the song may not be known, as it would be for automatic mode. The timing, in fact, may be **completely** unknown. Also, a subscriber may typically join the radio stream, not at the beginning of the requested song, but at **any point downstream in the song**.

Therefore, the subscriber is instructed to scroll the MANUALLY scroll down through the lyrics that have been retrieved by the Web site, and which are displayed on his mobile phone or other Internet enabled device. Upon locating the line currently playing, the subscriber may, for example tap, double tap, or long tap that line, and from that point on the lyrics scroll forward on the system timer (not on the actual song timer) and the operation functions reasonably well already. The subscriber is further enabled to re-scroll and re-tap on any line of the song to re-adjust the semi automatic async mode.

This embodiment of the present invention also accommodates non-Internet (standard broadcast) radio. The ID of a particular song is retrieved from a 3rd party song ID services organization, such as yes.com or shazam. Alternatively, song-recognition software in the form of fingerprinting, watermarking, etc may be used. If timing is available, the song is synched with the tunewiki™ lyrics database of the the proprietary Web site (online or offline). If timing is not available from the tunewiki™ lyrics database semi-automatic operation, as described above, is used. The subscriber gets the lyrics, scrolls to the current line, clicks and the sync metadata will take over and complete the async scrolling.

Additionally, this embodiment may be applied not only for lyrics, but also for any form of subtitles, such as for movies or lectures, for example. The subscriber scrolls to

the line currently being heard/spoken and "seen" on the screen. Then, again, in semi-automatic mode, the subtitles are asynched from that point forward. This method applies to any other async sub-titling application, where the device clock is used for timing and not the player clock.

Thus, besides song lyrics, the system is also enabled to add translation, community social networking functions, maps, etc. This includes all other services on prior patents (sync lyrics, translation, social network and so on. The only difference is the music stream does not reside locally.

In yet another exemplary embodiment a method is provided for identifying a trend setter of music, thereby enabling creation of a musical taste social network by a proprietary Web site, as to exactly where one song out of a list of at least one subscriber-requested follower of that trend setter. The social network is organized to include followers, who are attracted by the musical taste of one or more of a plurality of trend setters, in much the same way radio listeners are attracted to particular disk jockeys and radio stations Each time the trend setter plays a rendition of a song on his playback device, his or her followers get the information and can play the same exact rendition also

This embodiment thus enables creation of a real time view of each subscriber's usage of the proprietary Web site services. This power of information enables creation of a musical service promoted only by social network means, without involvement from music record labels, who customarily use prior art marketing and distribution methods for promotional purposes. With the social networking tools adapted by the present invention, any subscriber can lead followers to desirable music recordings that otherwise have no real chance to be discovered except by social network reputation. According to the prior art, a music appreciator may just tell his friends 'check out that tune, it is pretty good' and only a few of the biggest recording stars have an appreciable degree of artistic freedom. By contrast, this embodiment of the present invention enables a verbal recommendation based on statistical majority trends in musical discovery. The consumers are thus freed from having musical tastes forced upon them by the music labels. The present invention automates the process of music discovery by democratization of music availability word wide, across all cultures and continents. As the media guru Marshall McLuhan said, the consumer will become the producer in the

instant feedback automation loop. The present embodiment can also be applied to other art forms, such as poetry, motion pictures, video content, book readership, etc.

In still another exemplary embodiment a method is disclosed which enables a group of local user/subscribers having playback devices with a specialized player plug-in device to synchronize a display of song lyrics to a timer clock of hosting playback software. The method is implemented by a system which includes a remote database of songs and hosting playback software with an interface to enable each of the user/subscribers to locally receive and play back lyrics and timing metadata synchronized to a local music digital file. The method includes choosing a song video by one of the user/subscribers. The method also includes automatically getting a stream of the same video by ALL user/subscribers and streaming of the lyrics to all of the user/subscribers at the same time, wherein all the participants can see each other on video, can read each other's notes on the text chat and can hear each other sing along with them, and wherein the system uses at least one of multimedia capabilities of the computer comprising: video, sound, mic, chat, playback, and mixers.

The present embodiment provides a method for searching lyrics, or any other textual search, such as a closed caption words database. The search terms are a word or phrase aimed at finding a few digital assets, such as audio or video files that contain the searched word or phrase. When at least one file is found it is extracted and advanced so that playback begins at that exact word or phrase. Because timing information on each of the lines containing the word or phrase, this is easily accomplished.

Of course the same phrase or word might exist in the same song or video more than once, so a 'next' button will fast forward the playback to the next timing point where it appears, and naturally 'fast back' will take you backwards in the playback.

The features of the present invention include special software 'one click' capabilities as follows:

video chat;
music video display;
synched lyrics stream;
instant message;
social network;

music map; and

music charts.

This embodimentof the present invention includes the following steps and features:

one user/subscriber chooses a song video (from music charts, music map or simple search); ALL user/subscribers automatically get a stream of the same video;

lyrics stream to all user/subscribers locked into the same timing;

a 'master' controls each of the others' players or it can set a 'lead' that invites friends to his 'party' and only the lead chooses songs and start/stops playback to 'slaved' players;

all the participants can see each other on video, can read each other's notes on the text chat and can hear each other sing along with them;

all multimedia capabilities of the computer are utilized: video, sound, mic, chat, playback, mixers and so on; and

an optional embodiment includes a record button to make a replacement soundtrack + the video of the participant, and share it with other friends at the 'end of the session.'

An alternative of the present embodiment provides for a user/subscriber singing a "duet with himself:"

a single user/subscriber records himself singing said at least one song;

2 videos are stream synched: the recording of the single user/subscriber of himself and one from YouTube;

the single user/subscriber uploads the recording of himself to YouTube; and

both videos are synch streamed at the same time.

This creates the effect of a duet without breaching copyright for a recording of a single of himself 'cover' performance.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows hereinafter may be better understood. Additional details and advantages of the invention will be set forth in the detailed description, and in part will be appreciated from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In order to understand the invention and to see how it may be carried out in practice, a preferred embodiment will now be described, by way of a non-limiting example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a flow chart of the language translation process for songs, constructed according to the principles of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a flow chart for the basic method enabling subscribers to play music produced by a particular musical artist of their choice on a music player dedicated to the artist, constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a flow chart for the method for a proprietary Web site to identify a radio broadcast stream, where a song specified by a subscriber is found, constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a schematic illustration of a system block diagram for the method for a proprietary Web site to identify a radio broadcast stream, where a song specified by a subscriber is found, constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention;

Fig. 5 is a flow chart for a method for a proprietary Web site to enable to subscribers to follow the most listened-to lists, where a song specified by an influential subscriber is found, constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention;

Fig 6 is a screen shot of a group of user/subscribers singing on screen synched lyrics together, constructed according to the principles of the present invention; and

Fig. 7 is a flow chart of the method for group synched singing, constructed according to the principles of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF AN EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENT

The principles and operation of a method and an apparatus according to the present invention may be better understood with reference to the drawings and the accompanying description, it being understood that these drawings are given for illustrative purposes only and are not meant to be limiting.

Table I is a translation table.

Language Wiki

English	Spanish	French	Hebrew	Japanese
I	Yo	Je	אני	わたし
my	ma	mon	שלי	わたしの
My name is	Me llamo	Je m'appel	קוראים לי	わたしの名前は
I love you	..te amo	Je t'aime	אני אוהב אותך	愛しています
Go home	..ir a casa	Allez au maison	לך לביתה	家に帰る

TABLE I

Fig. 1 is a flow chart of the language translation process for songs, constructed according to the principles of the present invention. In the language wiki, there will be a set of original sentences for a song in English. The wiki subscribers will fill in the translation to another language, according to the English original. The wiki subscribers will vocally record each line in the other language.

The program now can automatically set up a language lesson **to** any language **from** any language. For example, if you want to do a lesson of Hebrew to Japanese, one can match the translation based on the table, cut and paste the text and voice and automatically prepare an MP3 file that will have Hebrew to Japanese or Japanese to Hebrew Format.

Language translation and access to song lyrics is enabled for subscribers to a Wiki Web site that provides a database containing synchronization timing tables utilizing synchronization of music and lyrics playback. A subscriber accesses a set of original lines in a language Wiki for a song in English or any other language of origin 110. The subscriber fills in the language translation, word by word and/or phrase by phrase, to a second language 120. If all the lines of the song are **not** translated 130, another word or phrase is translated to the second language 135. If all the lines of the song **are** translated 130, the subscriber vocally records each line in the second language 140, thus enabling an automatic language lesson **to** any language **from** any language that has been previously translated 150.

With enough sentences, a translation application enables the subscriber to look for translations in his/her language and receive the desired translation in text and in voice.

In another alternative embodiment:

1. A jogger gets a map on his/her mobile phone with a trail marked by his/her community or his/her own trail to share with others;
2. He/she runs the trail;
3. The phone follows him/her via GPS;
4. The phone provides feedback to him/her via the speaker about his/her progress:
   - How long he/she has been running;
   - How fast he/she is running;
   - His/her ranking on a virtual competition against all others who did this trail; and
   - His/her place in the 'pack' today, this week, this month, ever; and
5. The system of the present invention can create a virtual competition – even with prizes – against his/her running mates, who was first, etc.

Fig. 2 is a flow chart for the basic method enabling subscribers to play music produced by a particular musical artist of their choice on a music player dedicated to the artist, constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention. A number of songs, lyrics, albums, videos exclusively performed, at least in part, by an artist are bundled for inclusion into a dedicated music player 210. Subscribers dedicate their music player to a musical artist 220. A listing of the bundled musical recordings, lyrics and videos of the dedicated artist are displayed on screens of the dedicated players 230. The subscriber selects and plays songs from the list 240.

The artist is able to communicate directly with the portion of the subscribers who have dedicated their player to him 250. The artist is able to communicate directly with subscribers through their twitter, facebook or myspace accounts or a special messaging system in the player 260. Subscribers can participate in a social network dedicated to their chosen artist 270. Subscribers are located on music maps and artists' managers use the maps to see where the fans are, where to plan shows and to sell tickets for shows, t-shirts, etc, without going through intermediaries 280.

Fig. 3 is a flow chart for the method for a proprietary Web site to identify a radio broadcast stream, where a song specified by a subscriber is found, constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention. The proprietary Web site identifies a requested song in a radio broadcast stream and exactly where the song is in the stream, and then retrieves the lyrics of the song and synchronizes the stream with the lyrics. The Web site continuously scans thousands of Internet radio stations and recognizes what is presently playing 310.

Users register with the Web site 320 and registered users (subscribers) make a list of songs desired for listening 330. A subscriber "clicks" a song in his displayed list to initiate a search by the Web site of all the radio stations being monitored 340. If the song is not found 341, further searching is done 342. When the song requested is identified 341, the Web site arranges for the subscriber to tune to the radio station playing the requested song 350. The Web site locates the lyrics of song, if available 360 and if so, synchronizes the stream with the lyrics for display to the subscriber 470.

Fig. 4 is a system block diagram, illustrating the method for a proprietary Web site to identify a radio broadcast stream, where a song specified by a subscriber is found, constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention. A registered user/subscriber accesses the proprietary Web site 430 by means of a mobile phone 410, for example, via a mobile operator and a cellular network 420. Mobile phone is equipped with proprietary plug-in software preferably previously downloaded to all registered user/subscribers. Streaming audio from radio stations 441 is continuously transmitted 442 to a stream search buffer 433, under control of stream server 431, and monitored by a stream search content analyzer 432 of Web site 430.

A song request is set by the user/subscriber, for example from a list of favorite songs and/or artists. E.g., if an artist is requested, any occurrence of the artist singing any song is assumed. The request is received by a radio stream song search server 431 at Web site 430. When a radio station is found to be playing the requested material, Web site 430 arranges for the user/subscriber to tune to the radio station. Web site 430 locates the lyrics of song from lyrics database 434 or from the Internet, if available and if so, synchronizes the stream with the lyrics for display to the user/subscriber.

Fig. 5 is a flow chart for a method for a proprietary Web site to enable to subscribers to follow the most listened-to lists, where a song specified by an influential subscriber is found, constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention. The present invention provides software for a social media player, generally a handset, that gathers vast amounts of data about each music track playback by each of its subscribers 510. When a TuneWiki subscriber listens to a song using the TuneWiki services, his/her playback device asks the remote server for the lyrics of that song 520, and by doing so, over time the request responses of step 520 are compiled. If the song is not found 521, further searching is done 522. When the song requested is identified 521, a playback trail is thereby created and subsequently expanded 530.

Each song played by the subscriber adds to the previously accumulated list of songs he/she played 540. Each subscriber has their unique trail of music playback, and the present invention enables that trail to be followed by others, in real time or by time shifting 550. When a playback starts, a message is sent to the TuneWiki remote servers 560. That server can in turn send a signal to other subscriber who **chose** to "follow" the first subscriber 570. That signal can start a playback of the same song 580.

The playback can be a copy of the same music the 'follower' might have on their own playback device's local memory storage, from an "Internet storage cloud" of the same song over remote server from services such as YouTube.com, MTV.com, etc. The playback of the followers can automatically be initiated by a signal from the "leader" or controlled, i.e., time – shifted by a prior trail of music played by the leader. Yet another way to create a "Follow Me" trail of music to be discovered by the community is location based generation of music track lists. Thus, each geographical location generates a virtual list of music popular in that location.

Because the community of users of the proprietary Web site are worldwide and vast, and because as described in prior art by the applicant the Web site system stores the location of each user when they actually play music, either by means of GPS or cell tower number or IP address. The Web site remote database gathers information that can be distilled by actual location. Subscriber usage can now be a virtual play list path created not only for a single leader regardless where he/she happened to be as described above, but according to the **aggregate statistical preference wisdom of every subscriberer in any specific location**. That service already been created by the applicant's technology and is represented by the 'top 50' service offered already and covered under prior art.

Now anyone around the world can 'follow the group' of people at any other location in the world by simply selecting to 'follow the path' of most popular music in that other geographical location – be it a city, a university, a country or the entire globe. A subscriber can even drive in his/her car and as he/she passes any specific geographical location, can 'follow' the music popular in that location on that day.

Fig 6 is a screen shot of a group of user/subscribers shown singing synched lyrics together on a screen, constructed according to the principles of the present invention. The user/subscribers 610 are SINGING together. Video, voice and text chat are provided simultaneously for each friend 620. The chat is an auxiliary feature, where the participants can do two things at the same time. They sing along as a group with the same streamed synched-lyrics 630, synched also to the video 640. Simultaneously they can text-chat with the other individual members of the group. Thus, each of them may or may not be chatting, but they all SING together.

Social network sing-along:

Fig. 7 is a flow chart of the method for group synched singing, constructed according to the principles of the present invention. The present invention is based on a system of synchronized playback for a variety of devices.

The devices are standalone, i.e., they are physically unconnected playback devices (phones, computers, PDA's, etc) 710. One user/subscriber is the 'master/inviter' and the others are the 'follower/invitees.' The inviter selects music, whether from audio or audio/video files, and invites remote friends to a sing-along 720. Each follower views and listens to his own separate device, which can be in the next room or the next continent. The invitee's acceptance 'enslaves' his playback device to the playback controls of the 'master' and allows sharing of the same exact playback timing synchronization of lyrics to songs 730. The playback asset can be a video stream (from YouTube or Yahoo! or Eminem or other remote source). Alternatively, it can reside on EACH of the participant separate devices or can even be streamed from the master to all the slaved devices via the communications network, i.e., the Internet 740.

The lyrics are displayed as provided by prior patent pending applications of the same inventors, on each of the devices.

The internal audio and or video recorders of the devices each user/subscriber holds are used to capture and deliver their image or voice or both to all participants. The groups

entire sing-along performance, with the original music (from video or audio source) are sent and played back to all user/subscribers in real time to create a virtual audience all singing along, together, time-synched by the same playback timing controlled by the master playback unit.

Optionally, any of the follower remote playbacks can take command and be the master for the next song sing-along selection.

The lyrics are displayed as provided by prior patent pending applications of the same inventors, on each of the devices.

The internal audio and or video recorders of the devices each user/subscriber holds are used to capture and deliver their image or voice or both to all participants. The groups entire sing-along performance, with the original music (from video or audio source) are sent and played back to all user/subscribers in real time to create a virtual audience all singing along, together, time-synched by the same playback timing controlled by the master playback unit.

Optionally, any of the follower remote playbacks can take command and be the master for the next song sing-along selection.

Having described the present invention with regard to certain specific embodiments thereof, it is to be understood that the description is not meant as a limitation, since further modifications will now suggest themselves to those skilled in the art, and it is intended to cover such modifications as fall within the scope of the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A method for language translation and access to song lyrics by a plurality of subscribers to a proprietary Web site that provides a database containing synchronization timing tables utilizing synchronization of music and lyrics playback, said method comprising:

accessing by one of said plurality of subscribers to a set of original lines in a song in English or any other language of origin;

filling in the language translation word by word and/or phrase by phrase by one of the plurality of subscribers to a second language; and

vocally recording each of said lines in said second language,

thereby providing an automatic language lesson **to** any language **from** any language that has been previously translated.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting from a playlist before said accessing step.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said playlist is a "Top 50" playlist.

4. The method of claim 2, further comprising synchronizing the lyrics to the music for a particular song and adding the results to the database synchronization timing tables before said selecting step.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said accessing is for a particular line in said particular song is searched and further comprising returning a time code by the Web site indicating where in an audio or video recording stored in the database said line was found, thereby returning the exact location of the line.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising clicking by said one of said plurality of subscribers to retrieve and listen to the song starting at said particular line.

7. A method to enable a plurality of subscribers to play music produced by a particular musical artist of their choice on a music player dedicated to said artist, said method comprising:

choosing, by each of said plurality of subscribers, a musical artist to whom said music player will be dedicated;

bundling a number of songs of said artist into a music player dedicated to said artist;

displaying, on a screen of said player, a listing of a plurality of musical productions of said artist;

enabling said artist to communicate directly with the portion of said subscribers who have chosen him/herdd.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein who have through their twitter, facebook or myspace accounts.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein or a special messaging system in the player.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein participate in a social network dedicated to The artist.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein or his/her managers will be able to use the music maps to see where the fans are.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein to plan shows, to sell fans directly tickets for shows , t-shirts or any other accessories without going through intermediaries.

13. The method of claim 7, wherein metadata about song duration is known to said Website, and thereby the finish time of the song is known, said method further comprising searching for another song for the subscriber in the background of said first search.

14. A method for identifying a radio broadcast stream by a proprietary Web site, as to exactly where one song out of a list of at least one subscriber-requested songs is in the stream, and then bringing in the lyrics of the song and synchronizing the stream with the lyrics, said method comprising:

continuously monitoring thousands of Internet radio stations by the Web site, and recognizing what is presently playing;

registering by a plurality of users with the Web site;

making a list of songs by each of said plurality of registered users (subscribers);

clicking a song by a subscriber in his displayed list to initiate a search by the Web site of all the radio stations being monitored;

identifying the music of the song requested as it plays on an Internet radio station;

arranging by the Web site for the subscriber to tune to the radio station playing said requested song;

locating the lyrics of song by the Web site; and

displaying said lyrics in synch with the music being played, if the synchronizing of the music stream with the lyrics is available, otherwise,

enabling the subscriber to synchronize the lyrics.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said list comprises at least one of songs and singers and said identifying comprises one of one song out of a list of at least one song and one singer out of a list of at least one singer.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein metadata about song duration is known to said Website, and thereby the finish time of the song is known, said method further comprising searching for another song for the subscriber in the background of said first search.

17. The method of claim 15, further comprising buffering for the subscriber, so when said subscriber is ready for the next song playback, the Web site is ready to play the next song.

18. A method for a proprietary Web site to provide software for a social media player, such that the player gathers vast amounts of data about each music track playback by each of a plurality of subscribers to the Web site, said method comprising:

listening by a subscriber to a song using the Web site's services;

requesting the remote server for the lyrics of said song;

compiling over time the request responses of each of the plurality of subscribers into "follow me" lists;

identifying by at least one follower among said plurality of subscribers of at least one influence leader to follow among said plurality of subscribers; and

following the current request sequence of said at least one influence leader by said at least one follower,

such that each of said plurality of subscribers is enabled to follow the most listened-to lists.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said identifying is derived from social networking activities between said plurality of subscribers.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein said request sequence is followed in real time.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein said request sequence is followed by time shifting.

22. The method of claim 18, further comprising sending a message to the Web site remote servers when a playback of a request from a first subscriber starts.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising sending a signal to other subscribers who **chose** to "follow" said first subscriber, wherein said signal can start a playback of the same song for the "follower."

24. The method of claim 18, wherein said social media player is a mobile phone handset.

25. A method enabling a group of local user/subscribers having playback devices with a specialized player plug-in device to synchronize a display of song lyrics to a timer clock of hosting playback software, implemented by a system comprising:

a remote database comprising at least songs; and

hosting playback software with an interface to enable the user/subscriber to locally receive and play back lyrics and timing metadata synchronized to a local music digital file,

wherein said method comprises:

choosing a song video by one user/subscriber from one of at least music charts, music map or simple search of said database and/or Internet sources;

automatically getting a stream of the same video by ALL user/subscribers; and

streaming of the lyrics to all user/subscribers at the same timing,

wherein all the participants can see each other on video, can read each other's notes on the text chat and can hear each other sing along with them, and wherein the system uses at least one of multimedia capabilities of the computer comprising: video, sound, mic, chat, playback, and mixers.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein said system further comprise a record button to make a replacement soundtrack and a video of the participant, wherein said video can be shared with other friends at the 'end of the session.'

27. The method of claim 25, wherein each of said participating user/subscribers control each others' players.

28. The method of claim 25, wherein a lead user/subscriber invites friends to his 'party' and only the lead chooses songs and start/stop playback to 'slaved' players.

29. A method for synching lyrics of at least one song, said method comprising:

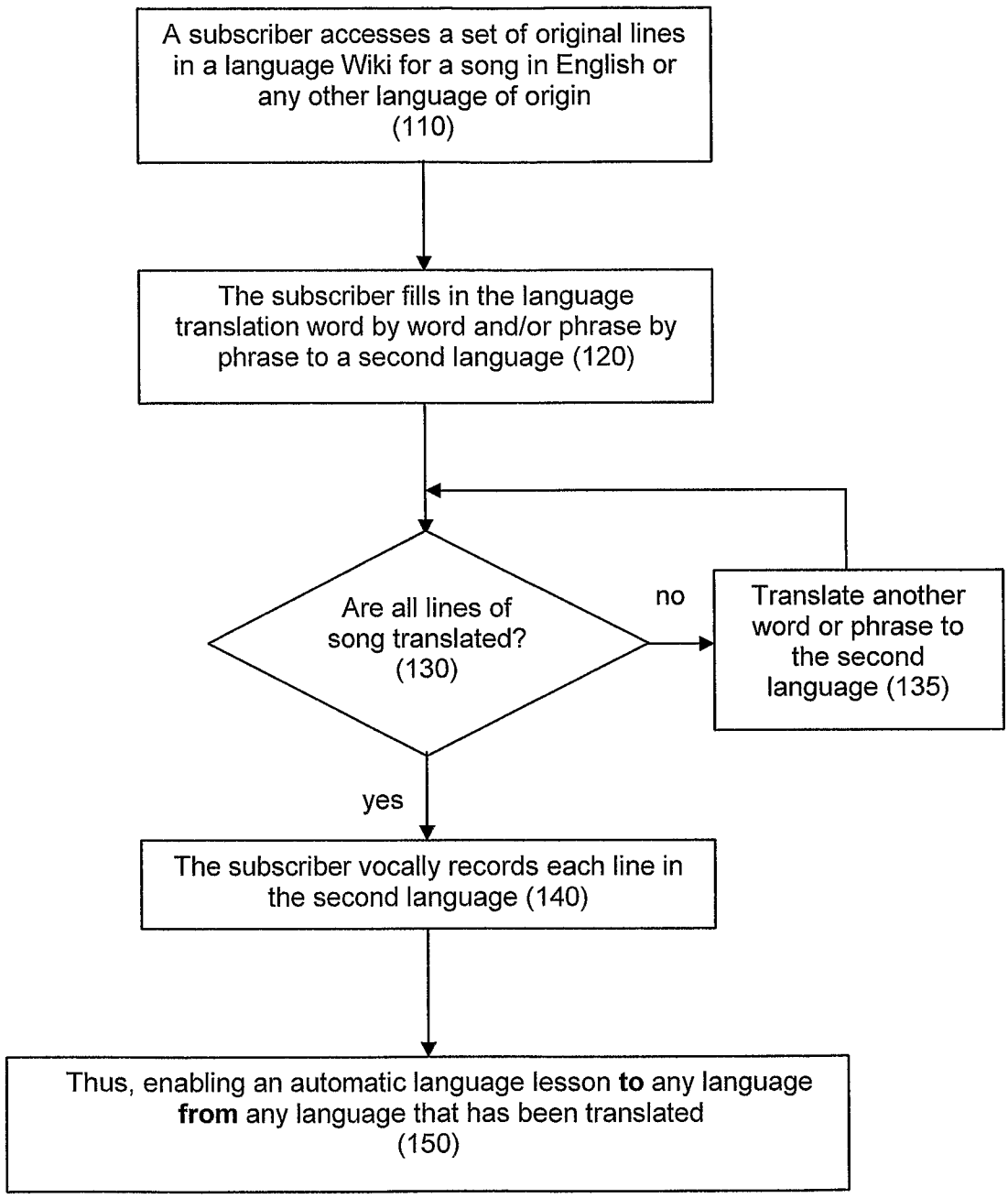
recording by a single user/subscriber of himself singing said at least one song;

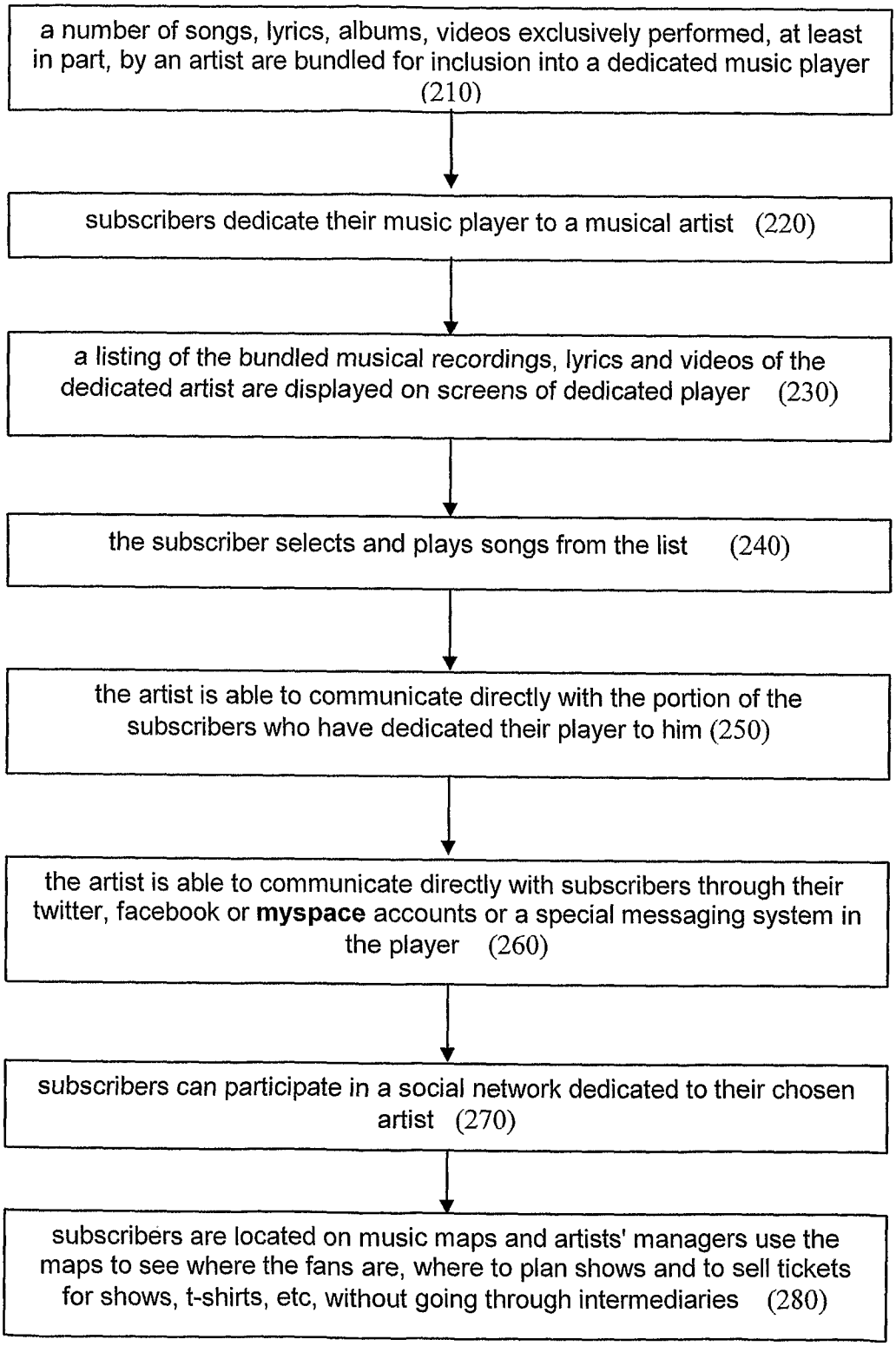
stream synching of 2 videos: said recording of said single user/subscriber of himself and one from YouTube;

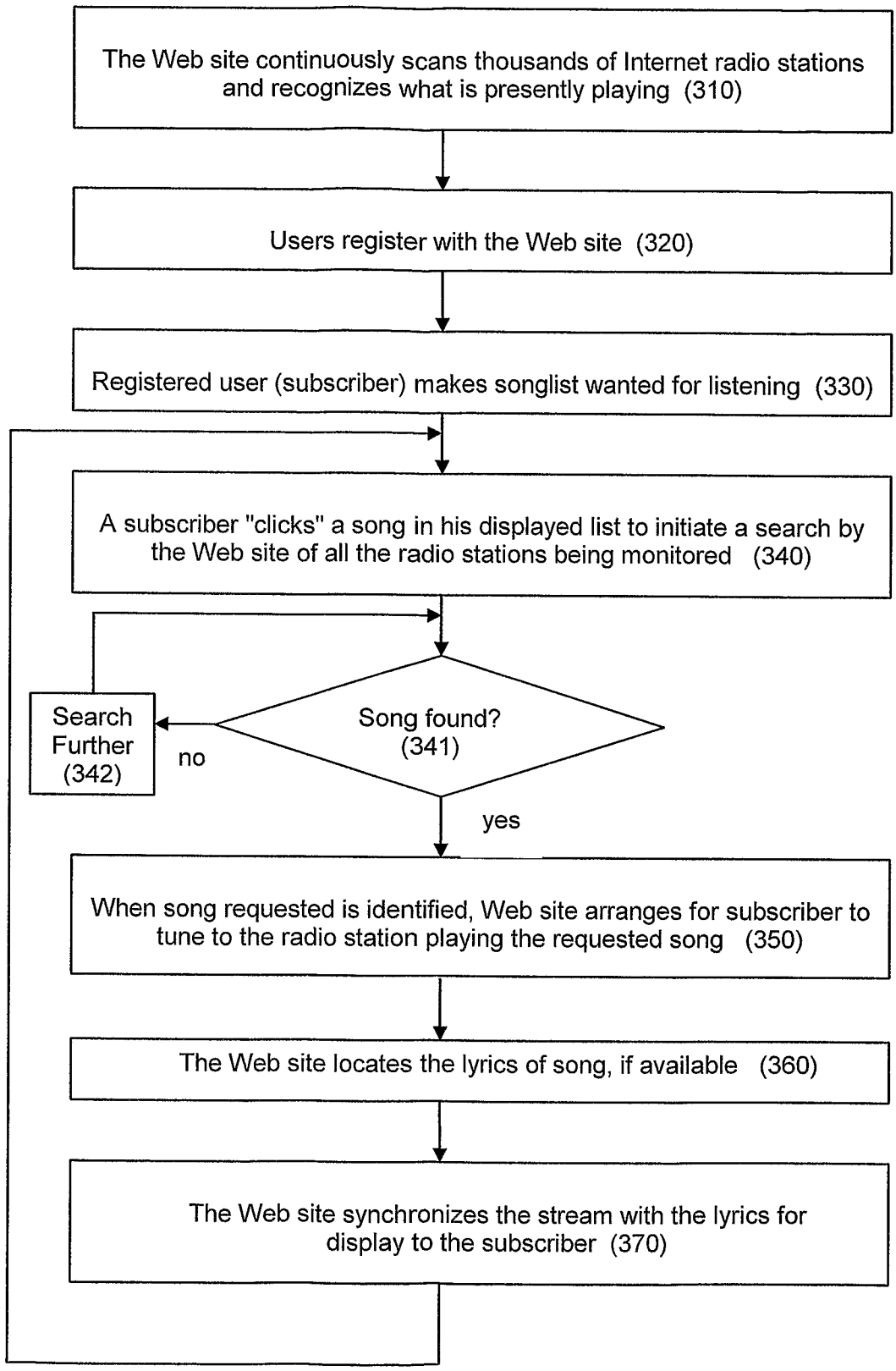
uploading by said single user/subscriber of said recording of himself to YouTube; and

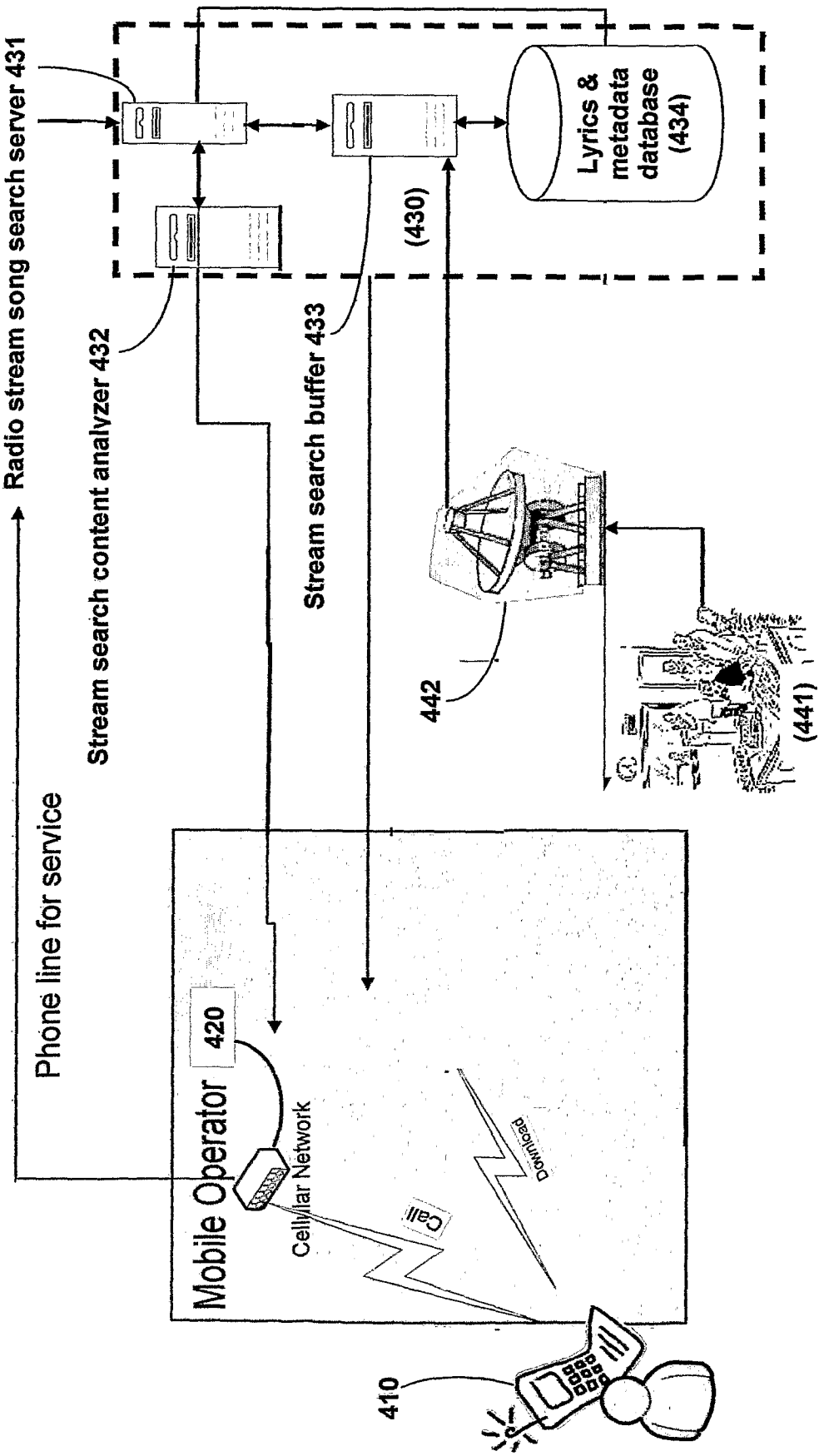
synched streaming of both videos at the same time,

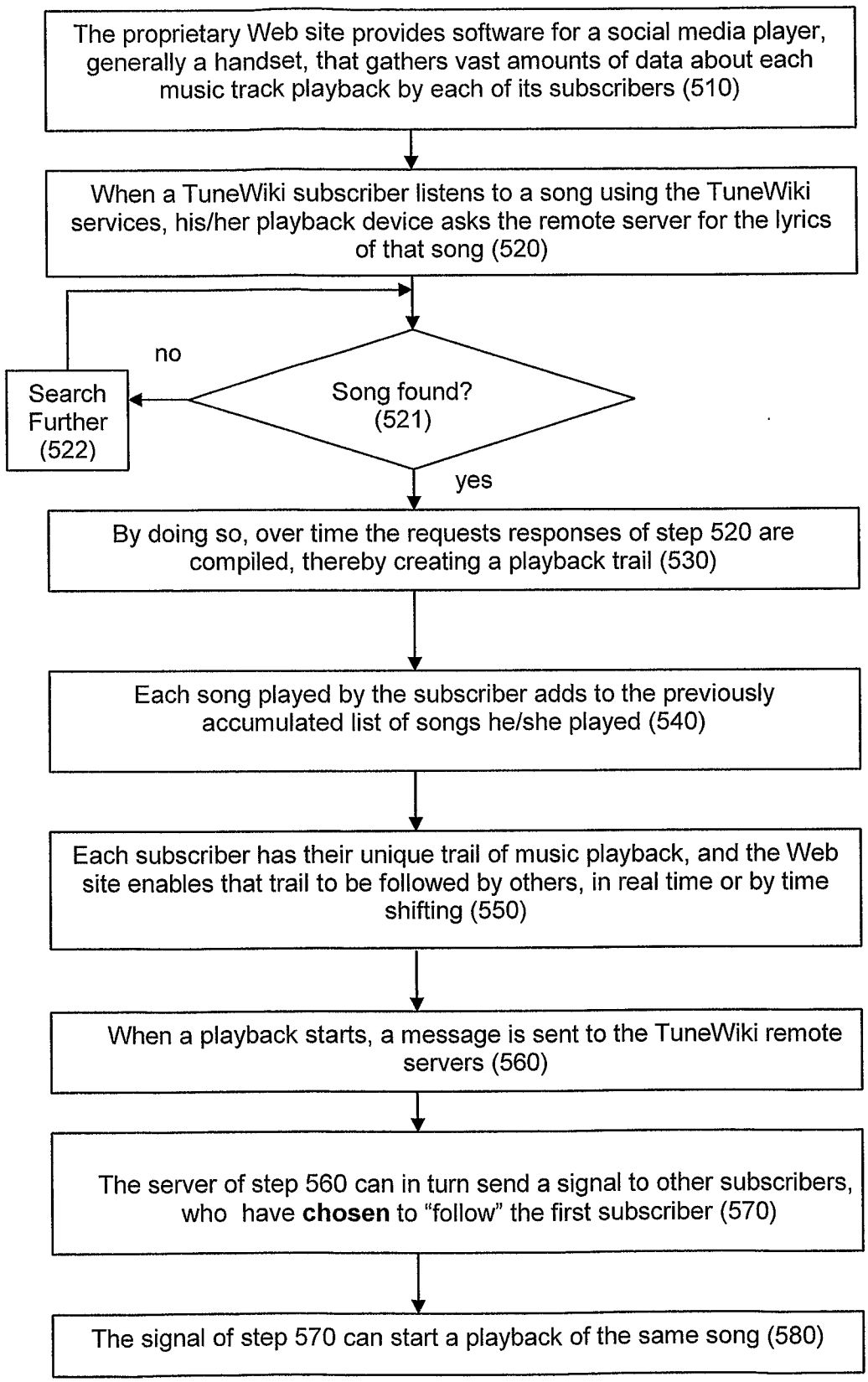
thereby creating the effect of a duet without breaching copyright for a recording of said single user/subscriber of himself 'cover' performance.

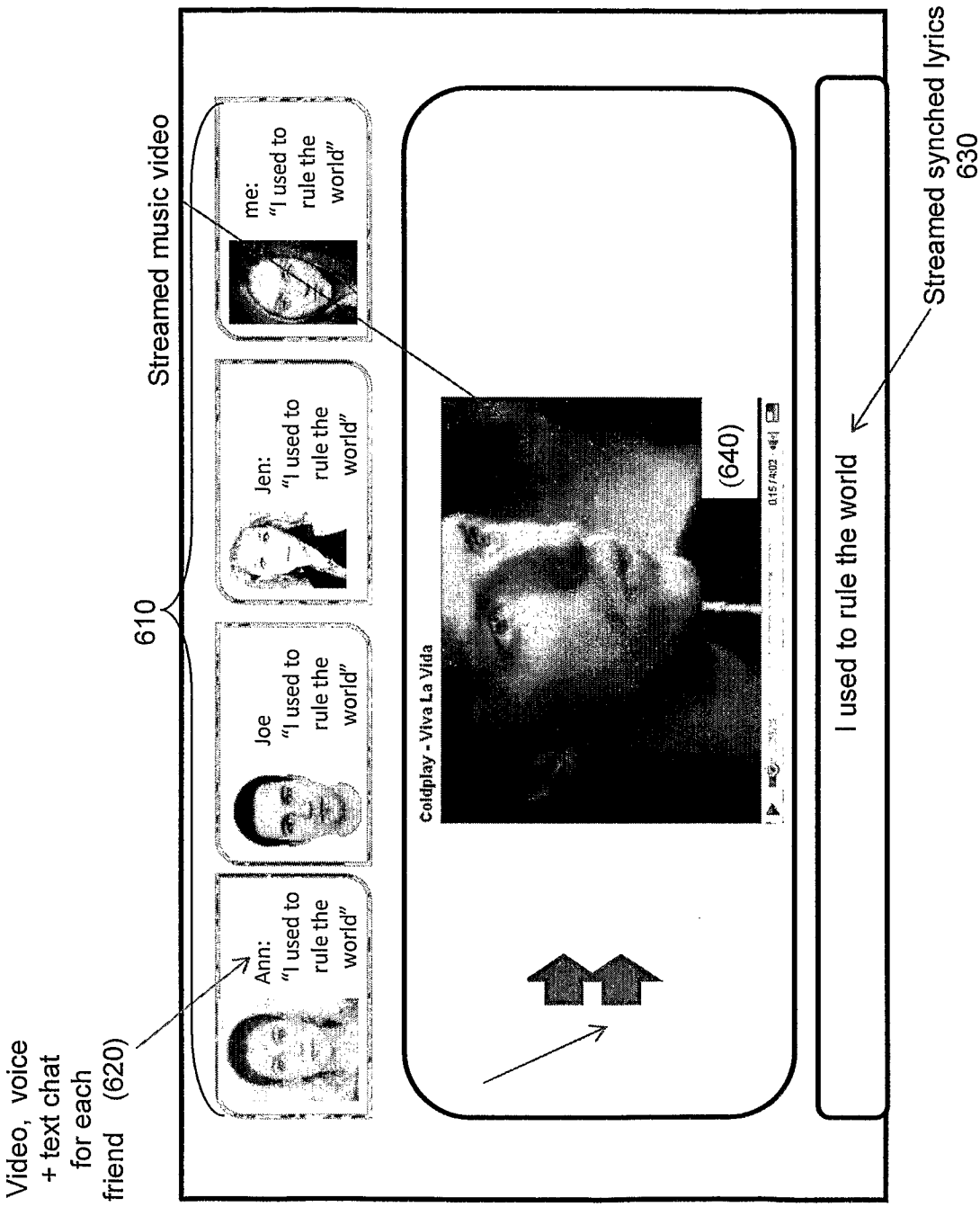

A subscriber accesses a set of original lines in a language Wiki for a song in English or any other language of origin (110)
The subscriber fills in the language translation word by word and/or phrase by phrase to a second language (120)
Are all lines of song translated? (130)
no
Translate another word or phrase to the second language (135)
yes
The subscriber vocally records each line in the second language (140)
Thus, enabling an automatic language lesson **to** any language **from** any language that has been translated (150)

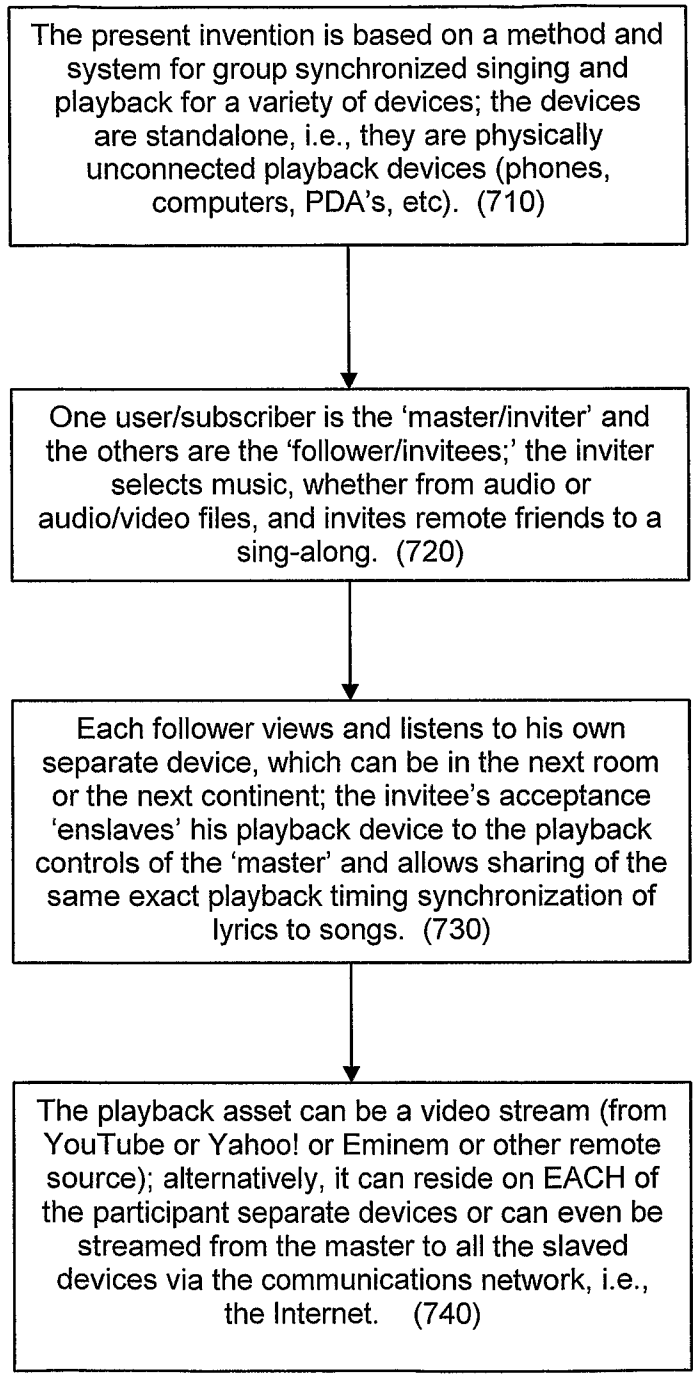

a number of songs, lyrics, albums, videos exclusively performed, at least in part, by an artist are bundled for inclusion into a dedicated music player (210)
subscribers dedicate their music player to a musical artist (220)
a listing of the bundled musical recordings, lyrics and videos of the dedicated artist are displayed on screens of dedicated player (230)
the subscriber selects and plays songs from the list (240)
the artist is able to communicate directly with the portion of the subscribers who have dedicated their player to him (250)
the artist is able to communicate directly with subscribers through their twitter, facebook or **myspace** accounts or a special messaging system in the player (260)
subscribers can participate in a social network dedicated to their chosen artist (270)
subscribers are located on music maps and artists' managers use the maps to see where the fans are, where to plan shows and to sell tickets for shows, t-shirts, etc, without going through intermediaries (280)


The Web site continuously scans thousands of Internet radio stations and recognizes what is presently playing (310)
Users register with the Web site (320)
Registered user (subscriber) makes songlist wanted for listening (330)
A subscriber "clicks" a song in his displayed list to initiate a search by the Web site of all the radio stations being monitored (340)
Song found? (341)
no
Search Further (342)
yes
When song requested is identified, Web site arranges for subscriber to tune to the radio station playing the requested song (350)
The Web site locates the lyrics of song, if available (360)
The Web site synchronizes the stream with the lyrics for display to the subscriber (370)


Radio stream song search server 431
Lyrics & metadata database (434)
(430)
Stream search content analyzer 432
Stream search buffer 433
442
(441)
Phone line for service
Mobile Operator
420
Cellular Network
Call
Download
410


The proprietary Web site provides software for a social media player, generally a handset, that gathers vast amounts of data about each music track playback by each of its subscribers (510)
When a TuneWiki subscriber listens to a song using the TuneWiki services, his/her playback device asks the remote server for the lyrics of that song (520)
Song found? (521)
no
Search Further (522)
yes
By doing so, over time the requests responses of step 520 are compiled, thereby creating a playback trail (530)
Each song played by the subscriber adds to the previously accumulated list of songs he/she played (540)
Each subscriber has their unique trail of music playback, and the Web site enables that trail to be followed by others, in real time or by time shifting (550)
When a playback starts, a message is sent to the TuneWiki remote servers (560)
The server of step 560 can in turn send a signal to other subscribers, who have **chosen** to "follow" the first subscriber (570)
The signal of step 570 can start a playback of the same song (580)


Video, voice
+ text chat
for each
friend (620)
610
Streamed music video
Ann:
"I used to
rule the
world"
Joe
"I used to
rule the
world"
Jen:
"I used to
rule the
world"
me:
"I used to
rule the
world"
Coldplay - Viva La Vida
(640)
I used to rule the world
Streamed synched lyrics
630


The present invention is based on a method and system for group synchronized singing and playback for a variety of devices; the devices are standalone, i.e., they are physically unconnected playback devices (phones, computers, PDA's, etc). (710)
One user/subscriber is the 'master/inviter' and the others are the 'follower/invitees;' the inviter selects music, whether from audio or audio/video files, and invites remote friends to a sing-along. (720)
Each follower views and listens to his own separate device, which can be in the next room or the next continent; the invitee's acceptance 'enslaves' his playback device to the playback controls of the 'master' and allows sharing of the same exact playback timing synchronization of lyrics to songs. (730)
The playback asset can be a video stream (from YouTube or Yahoo! or Eminem or other remote source); alternatively, it can reside on EACH of the participant separate devices or can even be streamed from the master to all the slaved devices via the communications network, i.e., the Internet. (740)