

# **Toronto Electroacoustic Symposium**

August 10-13, 2011

A co-production of:  
The Canadian Electroacoustic Community (CEC)  
and New Adventures in Sound Art, Toronto

## Review Committee

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Christina Baade (McMaster University)  
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Kevin Austin (Concordia University)  
Darren Copeland (New Adventures in Sound Art)  
David Ogborn (CEC / McMaster University)  
Mitch Renaud (University of Toronto)  
Fiona Ryan (University of Toronto)  
Nadene Thériault-Copeland (New Adventures in Sound Art)

## All TES events take place at the Artscape Wychwood Barns 601 Christie Street, Toronto

### Directions

*If walking:*

From St. Clair West Subway station walk west to Christie Street and then south to Benson street. Once you pass Benson, you can enter in one of the side doors off either Christie or Wychwood.

*If coming by bus:*

Take the Christie bus either north from Christie Station or south from St. Clair West station and get off at Benson Street. Alternatively you can take the 512 Keele bus and get off at Christie and walk south to Benson.

*If driving:*

From 401 take the Allen Expressway south to Eglinton. Go west (right) on Eglinton and then South (left) on Oakwood and another quick left onto Vaughan Street. Follow Vaughan to St. Clair west and turn west (right) onto St. Clair. Turn south (left) from there onto either Wychwood or Christie. There is street parking on the Christie and Wychwood sides of the building.

### Symposium Schedule

#### **Toronto Electroacoustic Symposium (TES)**

#### **Opening Reception, August 10, 6-8PM**

NAISA Space, 601 Christie St #252

*with special performance/demo by Chan Ka Nin on his installation Welcome To My Parlour*

#### **TES Opening Night Concert, August 10, 8PM**

Theatre Direct's Wychwood Theatre, 601 Christie St #176

Programme: *Black Velvet* by Martine Louise Rossiter  
*Portals* by Graeme Truslove  
*Duality* by Tomás Henriques  
*Perception Synesthésique 5* by Giulio Colangelo  
*Vineta* by Eike Swoboda  
*Pathline #1* by Francesco Rosati & Leila Bahlouri  
*gucci might be* by Robert Phillips

Symposium Dinner: Wednesday August 10th 2010, 10 PM

For those who have registered for the dinner, reservations have been made at Mezzetta's, 681 St Clair Ave W. Mezzetta's is situated at the corner of Christie and St. Clair Ave West, a 5 minute walk from the Artscape Wychwood Barns.

Note: Questions about the schedule or any other aspect of the symposium can be directed to David Ogborn, chair of the symposium committee, by email [ogbornd@mcmaster.ca](mailto:ogbornd@mcmaster.ca) or (especially during the symposium) by telephone or SMS 289-439-3252.

## Symposium Sessions (Day 1): Thursday August 11, 9:30 AM – 4:45 PM

Theatre Direct's Christie Studio, Artscape Wychwood Barns 601 Christie Street #170

9:30-10 AM	Opening remarks by Kevin Austin
10-11:30 AM	Paper Session 1: <i>Creation</i> Chair: Bruno Degazzio (Sheridan College) <i>Sonik Spring: a new digital instrument</i> Tomas Henriques <i>Electroacoustic and Computational Feedback Synthesis</i> Campbell Foster <i>Creative Translations: Exploring how compositions are transformed when translated between acoustic and electroacoustic media</i> Fiona Ryan
11:30-12:00	Break
12:00-1:00	Listening Session 1: <i>60 x 60 Canada</i>
1-2:30 PM	Lunch
2:30-3:30 PM	Paper Session 2: <i>Analysis</i> chair: Mitch Renaud (University of Toronto) <i>Playing with the Voice and Blurring Boundaries in Hildegard Westerkamp's 'MotherVoiceTalk'</i> Alexa Woloshyn <i>Henry Gwiazda: buzzingreynold'sdreamland, an Analysis</i> Bijan Zelli
3:45-4:45 PM	Paper Session 3: <i>Algorithms</i> chair: Alan Tormey (Electronic Laboratory Chamber Orchestra) <i>"Visual Music" - Integration of Real-Time OpenGL Graphics with an Algorithmic Music Composition System</i> Bruno Degazio <i>Towards a Generative Electronica: A Progress Report</i> Arne Eigenfeldt
4:45 - 8 PM	Dinner

## Toronto Electroacoustic Symposium (TES) Concert #2, August 11, 8PM

Theatre Direct's Wychwood Theatre, 601 Christie St #176

Programme: *Black Pudding* by Alan Tormey  
*City-Soundings* by Wiska Radkiewicz & Andrea Cohen  
*Elektronische Momente* by Otto Joachim  
*Prologue and Postscript* by Gustav Ciamaga  
*Possible Spaces No. 04* by Gustav Ciamaga  
*The Computer in my life* by Gustav Ciamaga  
*Harmonia* Christos Hatzis & Bruno Degazio



## Symposium Sessions (Day 2): Friday August 12, 9:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Theatre Direct's Wychwood Theatre, Artscape Wychwood Barns 601 Christie Street #176

- 9:30-11 AM      Keynote Lecture by Jonty Harrison  
*The Final Frontier? Spatial strategies in acousmatic composition and performance*
- 11:00-11:30 AM      Break
- 11:30-1:00 PM      Session #4: *Space*  
 Chair: Arne Eigenfeldt (Simon Fraser University)  
*New Alternatives in Live Performance Spatialization*  
 Darren Copeland  
*Social Spatialisation: Exploring links within contemporary sonic art*  
 Ben Ramsay  
*Waves, Ripples, Beats: Psychoacoustic Phenomena Produced by Electronic Means as Compositional Material, and the Potential of Sine Waves to Trace the Acoustical Properties of a Given Room*  
 Chioyoko Szlavncics
- 1:00-2:30 PM      Lunch
- 2:30-3:45 PM      Listening Session #2  
*Make New Human* Max Alexander  
*Vista Points* by Manuella Blackburn  
*Coming Together - NotomotoN* by Arne Eigenfeldt  
*IDENTIFY* by Campbell Foster  
*Louder* by Norah Lorway  
*Automatopoiea: Study 1* by Steven Naylor  
*Décalage* by Ben Ramsay
- 4:00-5:00 PM      Paper Session #5: *Listening to the World*  
 chair: Kevin Austin (Concordia University)  
*The political Economy of Noise in Ixtlan de Juarez*  
 Owen Coggins  
*The Soundson Project*  
 Wiska Radkiewicz & Andrea Cohen
- 5:00 - 8 PM      Dinner

## Sound Travels Concert, *Places for our Ears to Go...*

### Jonty Harrison, David Berezan, Ilya Rostovtsev, Nick Storrington

Theatre Direct's Wychwood Theatre, 601 Christie St #176, 8PM (free for symposium participants)

*Places for our ears to go...* features acousmatic compositions that exist on a borderline between instrumental abstraction and referential meaning despite some of the pieces containing no (or very few) environmental sounds.

Aug 12th Programme: *Thumb* by David Berezan  
*Understatements* by Ilya Rostovtsev  
*Indices of Refraction* by Nick Storrington  
*Phantom Power* by Jonty Harrison  
*Undertow* by Jonty Harrison  
*Internal Combustion* by Jonty Harrison

## Symposium Sessions (Day 3): Saturday August 13th 9:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Theatre Direct's Wychwood Theatre, Artscape Wychwood Barns 601 Christie Street #176

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 9:30-1 PM    | <p>Special Session: <i>Participatory Electronic Ensemble Performance (PEEP)</i><br/> <i>Laptop orchestras, live coding, networked collaboration, and pedagogy</i></p> <p>Arne Eigenfeldt (Simon Fraser University)<br/>         David Ogborn (Cybernetic Orchestra at McMaster University)<br/>         Alan Tormey (Eclectic Laboratory Chamber Orchestra, Pittsburgh, PA)<br/>         Eldad Tsabary (Concordia Laptio Orchestra)</p>   |
| 1:00-2:30 PM | Lunch   |
| 2:30-4:00 PM | <p>Paper Session 6: <i>Curation</i><br/>         chair: Darren Copeland (New Adventures in Sound Art)<br/> <i>We Built Ourselves a Ghetto: An Analysis of Curatorial Practices in Electroacoustic Music</i><br/>         Matthew Griffin<br/> <i>Electroacoustic Ageism</i><br/>         Steven Naylor<br/> <i>A loaf of bread, a jug of wine, and ... an acousmatic composition?</i><br/> <i>An analysis of contemporary cross-sensory curatorial and presentation practices in electroacoustic art music</i><br/>         Eric Powell</p> |
| 4:15-5:00 PM | Closing Discussion and CEC Annual General Meeting   |
| 5 - 8 PM     | Dinner  |

## Sound Travels Concert, *About Time*

**Chiyoko Szlavncs, Martin Messier, Yves Daoust**

Theatre Direct's Wychwood Theatre, 601 Christie St #176, 8PM (free for symposium participants)

*Sound is expressed in time so it is no accident that there is a wide diversity of ways to reflect on time in sound art. In this concert, the theme of time opens a sonic investigation of some of our more well known symbols of time, and in other cases, the theme of time leads to a revisitation of old technologies.*

Aug 13 Concert programme:

- Lucilio Magus* by Ana Dall'Ara- Majek
- For Eva Hesse* by Chiyoko Szlavncs
- L'instant en vain* by Dominic Thibault
- Requiem* by Geroges Forget
- About Time* by Yves Daoust
- L'horloger* by Martin Messier

## Abstracts & Biographies

### Symposium Sessions Day 1, August 11, 2011

#### Opening Remarks by Kevin Austin

#### *The CEC with its head in the clouds: Where we came from, where we are, and where we can head*

In the early 1980s, electroacoustics (EA) was an under-recognized art. The CEC was created to respond to existing and future needs and interests of the EA community in Canada, and to an extent internationally. In the past 25 years, through a succession of Boards and Presidents, the CEC has grown and has successfully met many of these initial aims. There is a strong network of communication and support, publication, documentation, archiving, encouragement of a younger generation, and a strong international profile. This presentation will relate some of the histories and mysteries of these times up to the present, and with this as a foundation, some possible paths to the future will be proposed. Today's presentation takes place about 25 years after the first major national conference here in Toronto and is dedicated to the recently departed pioneers, but more so to the present and future practitioners of the arts of sound through loudspeakers.

**Kevin Austin**, Montreal based composer, teacher, arts animator. Degrees in composition from McGill University and has been active in electroacoustics for over 40 years. Now teaching EA at Concordia University in Montreal. Founding member of the CEC. Concert producer for four decades. Widely interested in many things from sound, to movement, to light, arts, nature and sciences. Recently stepped into the 21st century with his purchase of an iPad and is advancing his skills with Angry Birds®.

#### Paper Session #1: *Creation* (Chair: Bruno Degazio)

##### **Tomás Henriques**

##### *Sonik Spring: a new digital instrument*

The Sonik Spring is a new digital musical instrument that focuses on the issue of feedback in interface design as a condition to achieve a highly responsive and highly expressive performance tool. The instrument primarily emphasizes the relationship between kinesthetic feedback and sound production while linking visual and gestural motion to the auditory outcome. The Sonik Spring is portable, wireless and comfortably played using both hands. It features a 15-inch coil that can be compressed, expanded, twisted or bent, in any direction, allowing the user to combine different types of intricate manipulation. Playing this instrument is meant to feel like holding and shaping sound with one's own hands. The spring is attached at both ends to hand controller units each containing five push buttons and sensors that detect spatial motion in three dimensions (accelerometers and gyroscopes). The Sonik Spring can be used in three 'performance modes': Instrument mode, Sound Processing Mode and Cognitive Mode.



**Tomás Henriques** is a Portuguese born composer, performer and researcher currently teaching at Buffalo State College. His compositions are regularly commissioned and played in concerts both in USA and Europe and consist of works for acoustic instruments, both large and small formations, as well as music for electronic and mixed media. His music is recorded by the *Numerica* and *MisoRecords* labels. Recent performances include a work for orchestra and choir (*Scientia est Lux Lucis*, 2010) premiered by the Buffalo Philharmonia and a composition for prepared piano and live electronics (*Red Shift*, 2010) premiered by Bryan Boyce within the Music Faculty Series at Buffalo State College. Research in music technology has played a major role in his scientific output ever since he was a graduate student at the University at Buffalo, where he obtained his Ph.D. in 1997. Since 2006 he has been designing and building new digital controllers and electronic instruments. He was the 1st Prize Winner of the 2010 edition of the Guthman Musical Instrument Competition with his "Double Slide Controller", an electronic trombone-like instrument. In 2009-10 he was a research fellow at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, working in the area of real time interactive music composition and also developing new interfaces for real time speech synthesis.

## **Campbell Foster**

### ***Electro-acoustic and Computational Feedback Synthesis***

An interactive demonstration lecture about Electro-acoustic and Computational Feedback Synthesis. Topics to be discussed include previous research results milestones, origin, Electro-acoustic realization, techniques, methods, design, Computational realization, integration, compositional aesthetic, the identification of waveform phenomenon against the signatures of space energy data visualization, and natural branching and tree growth structures found in the spectrogram analysis of generated sounds.

Canadian Sonological Researcher **Campbell Foster** is a Composer, Performer, Interactive Systems Designer, Educator, and Inventor of the Electro-acoustic Sheet Metal Feedback Phone. Campbell studied Electronic Music with Anne Southam at the RCMT in 1975, and at York University to earn a special honors degree in Electronic Music & Composition and Computer Science. Study and research with Sterling Beckwith (Computer Music Applications), James Tenney (Composition), and Casey Sokol (Contemporary Improvisation). As Music Director for Computer Music Research and Development for Canada's own Mcleivier II CMI (1982-86), Campbell worked with a host of Consultants, Musicians, Composers, Computer Scientists, DSP and Computer Engineers in its development. Campbell provided room tuning acoustics and audio systems services for sound and mastering studios.

## **Fiona Ryan**

### ***Creative Translations: Exploring how compositions are transformed when translated between acoustic and electroacoustic media***

What happens when you turn an electroacoustic composition into an acoustic composition? What happens when acoustic music is transformed into an electroacoustic composition? How have composers found creative solutions to the problems inherent in this translation/re-composing process? This paper/presentation is inspired by reflections on my own practice



as a composer; I recently composed a (completely acoustic) choral work based on one of my earliest ventures into electroacoustic composition. I wondered what other music has resulted from composers "translating" music (and sound) between acoustic and electroacoustic media. I would like to discuss some ways in which this has been done and to what degree the ideas change or stay the same when they are incorporated into the new piece. I am curious how these sorts of creative processes may blur the lines of musical genre: (How do we identify, categorize, and analyze a piece that was originally conceived in one medium, but now exists in another?) This also raises the question of how technology and the ways we can manipulate sound effects the compositional process for all composers, even for composers who are not creating electroacoustic works. Many composers of acoustic music draw inspiration from electroacoustic work, and I would like to show ways in which this interrelationship has manifested. I will also discuss research relevant to this topic and point out areas where there is potential for further research and/or creative exploration on this topic.

**Fiona Ryan** is a composer, improviser, and performer from Nova Scotia. She creates vocal and instrumental works for soloists and ensembles of all sizes, as well as music for improvising musicians and electroacoustic music. Her music has been performed in various venues in Canada as well as in the UK. She has a wide variety of interests, and this eclecticism can be heard in many of her compositions. Fiona completed a Bachelor of music at Dalhousie University, a Master of Music in Composition at the University of Newcastle studying mainly with Agustin Fernandez, and is currently a student in the Doctoral program in composition at the University of Toronto, where she has studied with Chan Ka Nin, James Rolfe, and Christos Hatzis. Her recent and current research includes a project on musical influences and experiences of Canadian women composers, and explorations in composing based on narrative and literary forms.

## **Listening Session #1: 60x60 Canada**

*60x60* is a project made of 60 one-minute electroacoustic works by 60 composers arranged into hour-long multimedia presentations of various formats. The project is organized by Vox Novus in collaboration with the Canadian Electroacoustic Community. Established in 2003 by Rob Voisey, the project has been presented in a variety of formats in hundreds of concerts, shows, and installations around the world. *60x60 Canada 2011* is the third exclusively Canadian mix and is premiered at TES 2011 in the traditional 60x60 format – a fixed media presentation accompanied by a clock, with Tova Kardonne as host.

## **Paper Session #2: Analysis (Chair: Mitch Renaud)**

**Alexa Woloshyn**

***Playing with the Voice and Blurring Boundaries in Hildegard Westerkamp's 'MotherVoiceTalk'***

Cathy Lane's recent book *Playing with words: The spoken word in artistic practice* (2008) captures some of the central aesthetic and creative elements of working with language in sound poetry, live voice with electronics, and studio composition, among others. Soundscape artist

Hildegard Westerkamp is no exception with her numerous works that include poetry, autobiographical narrations, or articulated soundwalks. Westerkamp's *MotherVoiceTalk* (2008) is a fifteen-minute work that was commissioned to celebrate the output of Japanese-Canadian Roy Kiyooka. She combines several narratives from six main sound sources: 1) Kiyooka paraphrasing his book *MotherTalk*, 2) recordings of his interviews with his mother, Mary, 3) Westerkamp's voice reflecting on similarities she perceives between her and Roy, 4) recordings of her interviews with her mother, Agnes, 5) excerpted recordings of Roy playing a zither and a whistle, and 6) soundscape material. My analysis of this work examines Westerkamp's negotiation of several boundaries that are often blurred in the electroacoustic medium: public vs. private; self vs. other; and time and space.

First, I discuss how by blurring the boundaries between public and private space, Westerkamp creates a unique "sense of place" in each work. The development of transportable recording equipment has contributed to the erasure of the boundary between public (e.g., natural) and private (e.g., domestic) spaces. Second, I demonstrate how *MotherVoiceTalk* enacts a self-reflective process through which Westerkamp defines her identity – "self." In *MotherVoiceTalk*, Westerkamp weaves multiple narratives that address several similarities in Kiyooka and Westerkamp's artistic and personal lives, including the importance of mothers as life givers and "second persons" (Lorraine Code), and the immigrant experience. Finally, I suggest that Westerkamp's treatment of the voice and the use of soundscape material both maintain and transcend.

**Alexa Woloshyn** hails from Saskatoon, where she completed a Bachelor of Music (University of Saskatchewan, 2005) and still actively performs as a pianist and singer. She completed her Master of Arts in Musicology at the University of Western Ontario (2007) before heading to the University of Toronto for her doctoral studies in musicology. Her dissertation focuses on the voice and the body in contemporary Canadian electroacoustic music by Christian Calon, Robert Normandeau, Tanya Tagaq, Barry Truax, and Hildegard Westerkamp. Alexa gratefully acknowledges the support of a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Fellowship. Her other research interests include electronica singer-songwriters Björk and Imogen Heap, and Canadian popular music. Alexa frequently returns to the prairies to visit family and perform with her indie folk band JJ Atrio.

**Bijan Zelli**

***Henry Gwiazda: buzzinggreynold'sdreamland, an Analysis***

The combination of sampling art and collage is a fundamental principle of the musical work of the American composer Henry Gwiazda, who calls himself a samplerist. The importance of Gwiazda lies not only in his artistic contributions, which raise the collage technique to an aesthetic concept, but also in the way in which he, as a sampling composer, lends the musical material a three-dimensional identity. Gwiazda's longing for an audio software that would permit the spatial positioning of sounds in space was fulfilled by *Focal Point*, a software developed by Bo Gehring, Les R. Titze and Garry D. Titze in the 80's in the US. The software relies on the so-called Convolution Technique, with which a mono signal can be converted into a stereo signal positioned in three-dimensional space. The stereo signal, heard with headphones or less effectively with two loudspeakers, gives the listener the



impression of hearing the sounds coming from different directions and places in three-dimensional space. The approximately 9 minutes long composition *buzzingreynold'sdreamland* - the focus of this analysis - evolved in 1994, and marks, if not the culmination point, at least an important station of the career of Henry Gwiazda.

**Bijan Zelli** was born in Teheran, Iran in 1960. After completing his studies in electrical engineering at Sharif University of Technology in Teheran/Iran he immigrated to Sweden, where he changed his career from engineering to music. He received his master in Music Education in 1996, and then moved to Berlin for further studies in Musicology. He started his doctoral degree under Professor Helga de la Motte-Haber's supervision, and took his PhD degree in 2001. His dissertation, *Real and Virtual Spaces in the Computer Music*, is an exclusive and an analytical approach to how spatialization works in electroacoustic compositions. Bijan Zelli has performed many music lectures in different countries including, Sweden, Germany, Iran, and USA. His field of research is focused on western classical music, mostly concentrated on different aspects of modernism. He moved to the United States in 2007, and currently works as music educator and researcher in San Diego, California.

### **Paper Session #3: *Algorithms* (Chair: Alan Tormey)**

**Bruno Degazio**

#### ***"Visual Music" - Integration of Real-Time OpenGL Graphics with an Algorithmic Music Composition System***

OpenGL is a powerful graphics library available for many computer operating systems. It leverages the power of the today's highly parallel Graphic Processor Units (GPU) to provide powerful realtime performance. To date these capabilities have been harnessed for commercial applications such as computer games and video processing, but they have not been much applied to algorithmically generated art. This paper describes a method of integrating OpenGL within a MIDI-based algorithmic composition environment, with the aim of producing such art, known sometimes as "Visual Music" - abstract, algorithmically generated full-motion images. Major technical challenges and solutions are described in detail. Two current projects which employ this experimental implementation are described.

Bruno Degazio is a music educator, film sound designer, researcher and composer based in Toronto, Canada. His film work includes the special-effects sound design for the Oscar nominated documentary film, *The Fires of Kuwait* and music for the all-digital, six-channel sound tracks of the IMAX films *Titanica*, *Flight of the Aquanaut* and *CyberWorld 3D*, as well as many other IMAX films and television programs. His concert works for traditional, electronic and mixed media have been performed through out North America and Europe. As a researcher in the field of algorithmic composition using fractals and genetic algorithms he has presented papers and musical works at leading international conferences, including festivals in Toronto, New York City, London, The Hague, Koln, Tokyo and Hong Kong. Bruno Degazio is the designer of *The Transformation Engine*, a software musical composition system with application to algorithmic composition, sonification and interactive music. He currently teaches sound design in Sheridan College's internationally renowned Classical Animation program in Oakville, Canada.

**Arne Eigenfeldt**

***Towards a Generative Electronica: A Progress Report***

When creating a generative system, rules are required to limit the possible choices; in most cases, these rules are used to generate new compositions in the style of the composer. One difficulty with generative systems is validating the success of the system – in other words, whether the system has interpreted the rules correctly, or whether the rules themselves accurately model the desired style. In the above mentioned system, it is really only the creator of the system that can make this judgement: listeners can reject the musical result, but the system's creator can argue that they are making aesthetic judgements of the music, rather than the system. However, if the aim of the system is to create music consistent within a given genre, it is possible to judge the success of the system – both artistically and practically – by the relationship of its output to the original corpus. We are pursuing the potential of creating software that generates electronic dance music in specific styles. We have selected 100 complete musical examples in the genres of Breakbeat, House, Drum & Bass, and Dubstep, and are using a combination of machine and human analysis of these works to derive rulesets, which, in turn, are used to generate new music consistent within the genres. Unlike the work of David Cope, who used a set corpus of existing music by composers such as Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, and Joplin to create new compositions through recombination – stitching together music from given examples – we are using generative methods – including probabilistic methods and genetic algorithms – to create new music. This presentation will discuss how our methods differ from other generative music systems, and other music information retrieval (MIR) programs, and present musical examples of our ongoing research.

**Arne Eigenfeldt** is a composer of live electroacoustic music, and a researcher into intelligent realtime music systems. His music has been performed around the world, and his collaborations range from Persian Tar masters to contemporary dance companies to musical robots. His research has been presented at conferences such as ICMC, NIME, SEAMUS, ISMIR, EMS, and SMC. He is an associate professor of music and technology at Simon Fraser University, Canada, and is the co-director of the MetaCreation research group (metacreation.net), which aims to endow computers with creative behaviour.

**Symposium Sessions Day 2, Friday August 12**

**Keynote Lecture**

**Jonty Harrison**

***The Final Frontier? Spatial strategies in acousmatic composition and performance***

According to the musical history books, especially those in English or German, the most significant achievement of the electroacoustic medium was to add to music the means to control timbre and space. In actual fact, acousmatic music opened up far more than this – not least, a whole new paradigm for handling and interacting with sound directly, instead of through a system of notation. Yet, more than 60 years after Schaeffer, composers and



theoreticians are still trying to find the vocabulary and methodologies for thinking about and discussing the issues involved in a medium whose poetic, language and materials range far beyond what was previously available under the label of 'music'. In particular, the issue of 'space' – its meaning, handling and importance – all but ignored outside acousmatic music, continues to divide practitioners, who cannot even agree whether it is part of the compositional process or merely an issue of performance practice.

**Jonty Harrison** is the Director of the Electroacoustic Music Studios and BEAST (Birmingham ElectroAcoustic Sound Theatre) at The University of Birmingham where he has taught a number of postgraduate composers from the UK and overseas, many of whom are now themselves leading figures in the composition and teaching of electroacoustic music in many parts of the world. His works have received several Prizes and Mentions in the Bourges International Electroacoustic Music Awards (including a *Euphonie d'or for Klang* in 1992 cited as "one of the most significant works" in the Bourges competition's history), two Distinctions and two Mentions in the Prix Ars Electronica (Linz, Austria), and First Prize in the Musica Nova competition (Prague) among many others. Commissions have come from many leading performers and studios — including two each from the Groupe de recherches musicales (Ira-GRM, Paris) and the Institut international de musique électroacoustique de Bourges (IMEB — formerly the Groupe de musique expérimentale de Bourges) — such as the International Computer Music Association (ICMA), MAFILM/Magyar Rádió (Budapest), Electroacoustic Wales/Bangor University, IRCAM/Ensemble intercontemporain (Paris), BBC, Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, Fine Arts Brass Ensemble, Nash Ensemble, Singcircle, Thürmchen Ensemble (Cologne), Compagnie Pierre Deloche Danse (Lyon), John Harle, Beverly Davison, Harry Sparnaay, and Jos Zwaanenburg. Despite renouncing instrumental composition in 1992, he wrote *Abstracts* (1998) for large orchestra and 8-track tape, and a piece for the Thürmchen Ensemble, *Force Fields* (2006) for 8 instrumentalists, and fixed sounds. He has undertaken a number of composition residencies, most recently in Basel (Switzerland), Ohain (Belgium) and Bangor (Wales, UK), and has been guest composer at numerous international festivals. His music is performed and broadcast worldwide. Several works are available on empreintes DIGITALes, SAN/NMC, Cultures électroniques/Mnémosyne Musique Média, CDCM/Centaur, Asphodel, Clarinet Classics, and EMF.

## **Paper Session #4: *Space* (Chair: Arne Eigenfeldt)**

**Darren Copeland**

### ***New Alternatives in Live Performance Spatialization***

In 2011, I received new research funding in order to expand the current live spatialization system that I have been developing since 2006. The new research challenges a number of widely held conventions for spatialization in live sound art performance. One of those conventions is that the spatialization and sound projection of studio-composed works is almost invariably a solo performance. Another convention is that the loudspeakers are stationary and that the movement of sound is realized entirely through phantom or digitally encoded spatial imaging. This contrasts with the everyday acoustic environment where the movement of sound is linked with the physical movement of an object as it makes sound.

My research is also guided by a necessity to make sound art presentation something that is economically feasible for a small non-profit arts organization. By having two performers physically manipulate the positioning of two highly directional and handheld loudspeakers, the movement trajectories of sounds can be linked (like in the natural environment) to the physical movement of an object in space. The speakers used for this purpose are the Holosonics Audio Spotlight Speakers ([www.holosonics.com](http://www.holosonics.com)) and this presentation will center on demonstrating their unique qualities and discussing their attributes with the symposium participants.

**Darren Copeland** is a Canadian Sound Artist creating work for radio, performance, and installation with a focus on soundscape composition and multichannel spatialization. He is also the Artistic Director of New Adventures in Sound Art - presenters of the Deep Wireless, Sound Travels and SOUNDplay festivals in Toronto. He has been commissioned by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Open Ears Festival, Danny Grossman Dance Company, WBEZ, Kunstradio, Deutschlandradio Kultur, Réseaux des arts médiatiques and Rick Sacks of Arraymusic among others. His work is published on CD and DVD audio by empreintesDIGITales and available at [electrocd.com](http://electrocd.com). His most recent project includes the Sound Columns installation with Andreas Kahre for the new Queen Elizabeth Pool in Edmonton, which uses the Audio Spotlight speakers. His recent research on spatialization is supported by a Chalmers Fellowship from the Ontario Arts Council and a media arts grant from the Canada Council for the Arts.

**Ben Ramsay**

***Exploring links within contemporary sonic art***

There is a growing body of compositional work and theoretical research that draws from both Acousmatics and forms of electronic dance music. Much of this work blurs the boundaries of electronic music composition, often with vastly different aesthetic outcomes. This paper will comment on this research and will aim to identify issues arising from this type of work. It will explore the compositional and social links that can be perceived within contemporary sonic art and will offer a more sympathetic way of engaging with cross-genre research and composition.

The central theme of this research is involved with embracing how we might use these links to widen access to acousmatic music and to aid pedagogic practice. In particular, the research is concerned with documenting compositional ideas within Intelligent Dance Music (IDM), and how these practices might relate to acousmatic music composition. Particular attention will be paid to how we could use IDM to teach the concepts of acousmatic music to students studying the sonic arts. The paper will conclude with a discussion of the NoiseFloor festival and will pay particular attention to the cross-genre electronic music festival.

**Ben Ramsay** graduated from Middlesex University, London, with a BA (Hons) in Sonic Arts in 2001, and is now a Creative Music Technology lecturer at Staffordshire University in the West Midlands, UK. His research is centred around acousmatic music composition and the exploration of social and sonic relationships that exist between modern forms of electronic music, in particular the relationship between electronica and acousmatic music. He is currently studying for a PhD in Electroacoustic composition at De Montfort University, Leicester, UK, under the supervision of Prof. Simon Emmerson.



**Chiyoko Szlavnic**

***Waves, Ripples, Beats: Psychoacoustic Phenomena Produced by Electronic Means as Compositional Material, and the Potential of Sine Waves to Trace the Acoustical Properties of a Given Room***

This paper will describe how my use of ratio-based frequencies, unadorned sine waves, and very slow glissandi has served as means of exploring a special kind of microtonality using Just Intonation based ratios, one which has varying degrees of simplicity and complexity, one which highlights psychoacoustic phenomena, such as beating and fusion, and one which can produce a heightened awareness in the listener of the acoustical properties of the space where the pieces are presented.

**Chiyoko Szlavnic** graduated from the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto in 1989. She studied composition with James Tenney from 1994 until 1997, when she received a year-long Fellowship Grant from the Akademie Schloss Solitude in Stuttgart, Germany. After her residency, Szlavnic moved to Berlin, and attended Walter Zimmermann's composition seminars at the University of the Arts (1999-2000). Since 2004, Szlavnic has used line drawings as the basis for her compositions, writing for ensembles that range from small chamber groups to chamber orchestra, often incorporating sinewaves into her pieces. She has also produced several multi-channel electronic sound installations. Her work features a kind of microtonality derived from Just Intonation ratios, using glissandi and clusters to bring out acoustical phenomena such as beating, which, in turn, creates a surprising layer of rhythmic activity in her music. Szlavnic's oeuvre has gained increasing recognition in recent years, and has been featured in concert across Europe and North America, as well as in radio broadcasts and internet podcasts. Her visual artworks have also been gaining recognition since 2009—they have appeared in publications, and will be exhibited in Berlin and London at important drawings' galleries in the autumn and winter. Starting this autumn, Szlavnic will be teaching composition seminars at the University of the Arts in Berlin for two semesters, and in 2012, she will be a Fellow at Villa Aurora in California.

## **Listening Session #2**

**Max Alexander**

***Make New Human***

*Make New Human* uses audio taken from a live stream (over a very poor internet connection) of Owen Pallett's set at the 2009 Pitchfork Music Festival in Chicago, IL. The intermittent connection became the organizing principle of the piece, creating unpredictable moments of density and sparsity.

**Manuella Blackburn**

***Vista Points***

All materials used in *Vista Points* are derived from electric guitar sounds. Often the electric guitar sounds are left raw and then layered with processed materials. When these sounds

interact, there are points of causality, conflict and turbulence. This work explores the effect of varying the distance between sonic events. When constructing the piece, contrasts between pressured and voluntary behaviours became a primary focus with the aim of achieving moments of activity and emptiness. The work was awarded First Prize at the 10th Musica Viva Electroacoustic Music Competition in Lisbon, September 2009. Thanks go to Carlos Charles Lopez for providing the electric guitar sounds for this project.

**Manuella Blackburn** was born in London in 1984. She went on to gain a bachelors degree in Music at The University of Manchester followed by a Masters in Electroacoustic Composition, gaining a Distinction and the Peter J Leonard Composition Prize. She has completed a PhD at the University of Manchester with Dr Ricardo Climent's supervision, supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). Manuella is now as a lecturer in music technology at Liverpool Hope University. Successes include First Prize for her work *Vista Points* in the 10th Musica Viva Electroacoustic Music Competition, 2009, Portugal, and Grand Prize in the Digital Arts Awards, Japan for Kitchen Alchemy. She has received Honorary Mentions in the CMMAS competition in Mexico and in the VII CIMESP (Concurso Internacional de Musica Eletroacustica de Sao Paulo 2007). Other awards include First Prize for her acousmatic work, *Causal Impacts*, in the 7th Musica Viva Electroacoustic Competition 2006, Portugal 2nd Prize in the Diffusion Competition, Limerick, Selection in the 2006 Bourges International Electroacoustic Music and Sonic Arts Competition, and the Public Prize in the CEMJKO competition in Brazil. Manuella is also a member of The Splice Girls live laptop improvisation duo, who have been performing together since 2006. Together with Dr Diana Simpson Salazar they utilize tools built in Max MSP to create messed up loops and shimmering soundscapes. They regularly perform at experimental music events. Highlights include a 'sonic ferry' at the Sonic Arts Network, Plymouth and Florida (Atlantic Centre for the Arts, 2008).

## **Arne Eigenfeldt** ***Coming Together – NotomotoN***

*Coming Together* is a series of compositions that can be summed up as “composition by negotiation”: autonomous musical software agents interacting to determine an ever-changing musical environment. Agents converge various musical parameters (such as density, volume, and pitch) towards a mutually agreed upon collection; however, agents can also choose to break away from the group. *Coming Together: NotomotoN* was inspired by the NotomotoN robotic instrument, created by Ajay Kapur. Given a composition's overall duration, individual sections are calculated in which a rhythmic tala is interpreted by the agents, one of whom is the Notomoton, in unique ways. The human performer improvises over the dynamic environment, and his playing is interpreted by the agents in ways that affect the resulting music. Two other robotic instruments are involved, the MahaDeviBot, and GanaPatiBot, also designed and built by Ajay Kapur. This video is of the premiere performance, January 2011, with Daniel Tones as the non-virtual percussionist.

## **Campbell Foster** ***IDENTIFY***

*IDENTIFY* represents my most current aesthetic and technological research work, excerpts of



which are presented in my paper "Electro-acoustic and Computational Feedback Synthesis" for TES 2011. The piece arose from an experiment in seeding a computational feedback system and loop. In order to enable system intelligently generated sound phenomenon for further study, a non-interferential approach to the generation and observation of sound phenomenon is used to avoid quantum observational effects and Unintended Consequences. Listen for the female voice as Emitter seed value, the Star Trek transporter sound (3:35'), Blade Runner sound track (8:02'), Pitch walkabouts in an overall upward direction, and the interrelated systems behaviour of sound attributes producing fractal sound phenomenon from the tabula rasa feedback loop.

## **Norah Lorway** **LOUDER**

The form of this work develops around the idea of hope and despair, both desperately trying to be heard over the other. There is constant interference between the two states, the intentions endlessly being suspended, never coming to certitude. A recurrent melody, which begins clearly, gradually becomes distorted to a complete fade, guides the piece to its end. The piece is based on various field recordings (laughter, cello, chamber orchestra, voice, wind, car motors, amongst others) as well as computer generated material, processed in MaxMSP and SuperCollider. *LOUDER* was composed in the (BEAST) Electroacoustic studios, at the University of Birmingham in the Autumn of 2010 in Birmingham, United Kingdom.

**Norah Lorway** (b.1985) is a composer, pianist and laptop performer from Nova Scotia, Canada (B.Mus Mount Allison University, Canada; and M.Mus University of Calgary, Canada). She has had works performed across North America, Germany, Australia, the Eastern Caribbean and the UK. Norah is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Birmingham where she is studying electroacoustic music. Her musical interests range from large scale instrumental works with live electronics, fixed electroacoustics, and laptop ensemble composition, software development and performance. She is currently an active member of the Birmingham ElectroAcoustic Sound Theater (BEAST) and is a founding member and active performer/composer with the Birmingham Laptop Ensemble (BiLE), who perform regularly at venues around the UK and continental Europe. BiLE was also recently accepted to perform at the International Conference for New Interfaces for Musical Expression (NIME) in Oslo, Norway.

## **Steven Naylor** ***Automatopoiea: Study 1***

*Automatopoiea* is a series of studies developed from the sounds of mechanical toys, or automata, built by designer-maker Tony Mann, an artist based in Devon, UK. Mann's clever, kinetic pieces incorporate cast-off mechanical and electro-mechanical materials, chosen from a vast aggregation that spills beyond his studio and into a nearby barn. Each study in this series focuses upon the sonic idiosyncrasies of several of Tony Mann's automata. The result ranges from the delicate highlighting of details to rampant commotion. *Study 1* explores sounds produced by Aviator, Captain Webb, and Ratchet-Bird. *Automatopoiea: Study 1* has been performed in the UK (BEAST: Voyages Sonores), in Montréal, Canada (Harvest Moon Festival), and in Halifax, Canada (Oscillations Festival of Electroacoustic Music).

## **Ben Ramsay** *Décalage*

*Décalage* attempts to explore sonic interactions between organic and synthetically produced 'real world' materials. Unprocessed elements of the original recordings are evident in the arrangement, and are also used as the basis on which the rest of the sounds in the work are derived. At the heart of the piece lies a transformation, or shift. The organic gives way to the synthetic. The synthetic becomes acousmatic, and the natural slowly becomes unnatural as all reference to the original sound sources, and environmental cues, are stripped away. Familiar, brittle, erratic sounds, which are present at the beginning of the piece, mutate and give way to a darker, blurred and more vague audio world as the shift towards the synthetic takes place. The mutation from the 'real' to the acousmatic is further emphasised as the sounds develop from typical and ordinary to a more sinister, oppressive sound world.

### **Paper Session #5: *Listening to the World* (Chair: Kevin Austin)**

#### **Owen Coggins** *The Political Economy of Noise in Ixtlan de Juarez*

I explore the sonic environment of the town of Ixtlan de Juarez, in the state of Oaxaca in southern Mexico, beginning with a brief description of the town and local area. I then discuss conceptions of sound as power, communication and exuberance in southern Mexico. I outline the ongoing negotiations of indigenous, community and local identities in Ixtlan, a debate of some urgency in an era of encroaching globalisation. The comunero political system is valorised as communal, truly democratic and egalitarian, as distinct from centralised bureaucratic state power such as that found in the state governments in Oaxaca City. Yet the interminable loud broadcasts of news, announcements, advertisements, prize draws and music from the loudspeaker mast at the Palacio Municipal revealed a complete centralisation of sonic power. I describe how attention to sonic practices in the town contrasts with claims made about locality, local communal power and resistance to external forces of state and capital. I then discuss debates surrounding environmentalism, exploring the different conceptions at play in new ecotourism businesses. Locals seek to gain from preserving and presenting something of value to outsiders, and the interplay between values and perceived values of locals and tourists will be a key factor in the political economy of ecology in the region. The clash between environmentalisms is obvious in the differing approaches and expectations of sound in environment: on one hand preservation for sustainable exploitation, on the other, a romanticised idea of protected natural tranquility. Finally, I offer some reflections on the implications of attention to sonic environments, with respect to important negotiations and representations of identity in Ixtlan. I conclude that attentiveness to sound can reveal neglected perspectives and offer new insights to how discussions are framed and conducted.

**Owen Coggins** was born in Luton in the UK. He studied Philosophy at King's College, University of London, and completed an MA in Religions at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, where he focused on religious music/music in religion: in particular, musical epistemology in Rastafari, death, apocalypse and political liberation in pre-war African American gospel blues. and wrote a dissertation on transnational musical religious practices,



based on time spent playing music with a London-based group of Qawwali musicians at Melas, festivals, weddings and other functions. Owen is currently based in Toronto, where he is currently researching religious sounds and images in noise/drone/doom music. He has lived, worked and played trumpet in the UK, Nepal, Bolivia, Mexico before coming to Canada.

## **Wiska Radkiewicz & Andrea Cohen**

### ***The Soundson Project***

*The Soundson project* is a web-based environment in which composers or amateurs/students living in different countries create a common sound composition through an ongoing exchange of sounds. This project was created as an experimental approach to audio sharing and collaborative composition. The exchange of sounds does not take place in real time, but allows the composition to develop in a building process over a period of time. The participants in the Soundson exchange use sounds captured from the real world as raw sound materials, including spoken word, sounds produced by objects, environmental sounds or any captured sound event coming from the audible world. This practice creates musical results, which break the boundaries of traditional electro-acoustic music, blending in elements from radio art, audio art and sound poetry.

In a pedagogical context the goal of the SoundSon project research is to explore the educational potential of shared composition through sound exchanges between groups having different cultural backgrounds. In its pedagogical application, the SoundSon program has been implemented in different countries (USA, Mexico, Argentina and Europe) in the form of sound exchanges between elementary, middle school, high school and university students. The benefits of the program are threefold: musical, technological, and cultural. In the artistic domain, we experiment with a similar process to explore the various forms of collaborative composition, and our last work, *City-Soundings*, will be presented during the Toronto Electro-acoustic Symposium.

The interactive site of the Soundson project is hosted by Columbia University, New York ([www.music.columbia.edu/soundson](http://www.music.columbia.edu/soundson)). Since 2008 the IoCT (Institute of Creative Technologies) at De Monfort University, Leicester, UK has included the SoundSon Programme among their research projects to promote its development. ([www.ioct.dmu.ac.uk/projects/soundson.html](http://www.ioct.dmu.ac.uk/projects/soundson.html)).

**Andrea Cohen** born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, trained at the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Musique in Paris (BA in piano and chamber music performance), received a doctorate from the University Paris-Sorbonne (2005, thesis title: Composers and Radio Art). A radio author and producer, she created and performed in several staged pieces of experimental music theater, and developed educational media for school and university-level students. She lives and works in Paris since 1974.

**Wiska Radkiewicz** received training at the Conservatory of Warsaw, Poland (composition), the University of Paris-Sorbonne (musicology), the Groupe de Recherches Musicales - Conservatory of Paris (electronic music composition), the City University of New York (composition), and at Princeton University, where she obtained a Ph.D. in music composition. She is an electro-acoustic composer who has explored other fields (pedagogical studies, audio-visual composition and creative writing). She lives and works in Roosevelt, New Jersey, USA.

## Symposium Sessions Day 3, Saturday August 13

### Special Session: *Participatory Electronic Ensemble Performance (PEEP)*

Arne Eigenfeldt (Simon Fraser University)

David Ogborn (Cybernetic Orchestra at McMaster University)

Alan Tormey (Eclectic Laboratory Chamber Orchestra, Pittsburgh, PA)

Eldad Tsabary (Concordia Laptop Orchestra)

Recent years have seen an explosive growth in interest and participation in participatory electronic ensembles - and above all, in laptop orchestras. Symposium participants with experience as organizers and facilitators of these ensembles will share their philosophies, techniques, stories and challenges, with an ear towards helping their own groups develop and new groups form (across Canada and around the world). All symposium participants are **STRONGLY** encouraged to bring their laptop to this session - there will be the possibility to try software provided during the session and to perform as an ad hoc laptop orchestra.

### Paper Session #6: *Curation* (Chair: Bentley Jarvis)

Matthew Griffin

*We Built Ourselves a Ghetto: An Analysis of Curatorial Practices in Electroacoustic Music*

The notion of the Electroacoustic Concert bases itself on a single and simple premise: that we, as a group or as a collective, should listen to audio art that was specifically created to sound ideal played through an array of speakers. There is nothing inherently incorrect about this premise.

In fact, this premise is rather magnificent. We should note the suggested democracy in such a premise: any audio, without respect for musical or social context, can be experienced on a formal level in the Electroacoustic Concert. However, the fundamental problem is that this simply doesn't happen. There are covert parameters placed on that which is appropriate for such a listening context. To which one must say: fair enough. If these additional parameters exist within a genre of listening contexts, they must serve some aesthetic purpose, some way of furthering a pursuit of the audio arts that would be compromised if corrupted. However, this paper will argue that that is not the case at all. In fact, the notion of the Electroacoustic Concert effectively denies the necessary genre dialogue that would allow electroacoustic music to grow, expand, and change.

This dialogue, though, absolutely exists, though largely through other genres listening to and gleaning many fascinating compositional and studio techniques from electroacoustic music. Specifically, the work of David Toop and Paul Hegarty take a broad view of studio-based composition and frame in such a way that electroacoustic composition can and should be respected within and dialoguing with a larger scope of contemporary audio art, and this paper will propose that a more contemporary view of the Electroacoustic Concert should include



a broader range of compositions to facilitate this dialogue.

Broadly, there will be a proposal that certain subsets of contemporary acoustic compositions, dance music, hip-hop, and pop music strive for the same goals as those sought after in electroacoustic music, and further that those genres are already in dialogue with the practice, and thus should be engaged accordingly. Specifically, this paper will go in to detail discussing what it means for audio to be conceived for the speaker, parsing those attributes in the above genres which can be seen as in dialogue with electroacoustic music, ultimately arriving at the conclusion that, to properly contextually assess various musics, the musical compositional motivation and acoustic compositional motivation can and should be viewed independently.

The goal, as ever in electroacoustic music, is to be those who are truly listening, to that which extends beyond social context, and can effectively judge that which is an effective (and affective) use of the tools and techniques which can generate some sort of aesthetic change through audio art. The Electroacoustic Concert, from a curatorial standpoint, can be seen as a gesture of sharing; that there is a moment of collectivity presented, in which the collective shares a unique acoustic experience. But this simple artistic gesture can include a much more sophisticated dialogue than it currently does. From where we now stand, we're inside a self-made ghetto, and it's only through a more democratic curatorial vision that we can get out.

**Matthew Griffin** is a musician and composer from Kitchener, Ontario, Canada now living and working in Chicago. He got his BFA from Simon Fraser University's School for the Contemporary Arts and his MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. In addition to his work with *Electricity is Magic*, he is the Audio Curator with LiveBox Gallery. His recent exhibitions include a commission from the Experimental Sound Studio's Florasonic audio installation series at the Lincoln Park Conservatory; his audiovisual work *Empire* showed in Seoul, South Korea as part of the [chicago] group exhibition presented by Prak-Sis Contemporary Art Association; and he premiered his new piece for Solo Trombone and car stereos, *Second Line for We*, in December.

### **Steven Naylor** *Electroacoustic Ageism*

This paper explores some of the ways ageism may appear in the practice and study of electroacoustic music. Its perspective is rooted in direct involvement in the subject area, similar to participant-observation work. However, the analysis is not objective ethnography or sociology. Rather, it is fundamentally a series of subjective observations and reflections about an area of artistic practice of personal importance to the author. In its broadest sense, ageism is discrimination based on age. Originally associated with prejudice towards the elderly, the term is increasingly applied to any situation where a group or individual's competence, desirability, acceptance, or skill is assessed primarily (and presumably unfairly) on the basis of length or stage of life—whether young or old—rather than pragmatic criteria. To fully understand the potential range of ageism in electroacoustic music, we must extend that definition to include not only a priori assessments of artists and scholars based on their chronological age, but also pre-judgements of the techniques and technologies they use, and of the stylistic trends or approaches evident in their work. Its impact in those additional

areas is amplified both by the accelerating pace of information dissemination, and by frequent shifts in our technological and stylistic expectations. This extended definition provides us with three distinct, though ultimately interlinked, categories of ageism to consider: chronological; technological; and stylistic. We consider these manifestations of ageism from two complementary pairs of perspectives: internal vs. external assessment, and inclusionary vs. exclusionary group behaviour.

**Steven Naylor** composes electroacoustic and instrumental concert music, performs (piano, electronics, seljefløyte) in ensembles concerned with collective creation, through-composition, and improvisation, and creates scores and sound designs for theatre, film, television and radio. His electroacoustic works have been performed in festivals and concerts in Canada, UK, France, Brazil, Australia, and USA, and broadcast on radio and over the internet. Naylor is the artistic director of the recently formed subText Ensemble (2009), a group that combines instrumental and electroacoustic resources in through-composed and improvised music. He is a former president of the CEC, and co-founder/co-artistic director of the Oscillations Festival of Electroacoustic Music in Nova Scotia. Steven Naylor completed the PhD in Musical Composition at the University of Birmingham, UK. He is presently an Adjunct Professor in the School of Music at Acadia University, and resides in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Further information: [www.sonicart.ca](http://www.sonicart.ca)

**Eric Powell**

***A loaf of bread, a jug of wine, and ... an acousmatic composition? An analysis of contemporary cross-sensory curatorial and presentation practices in electroacoustic art music***

Public presentations of electroacoustic art (EA) music exist in a wide range of formats – from simple studio-based show-and-tells, to low-key happenings in gritty artist-run venues, to technically elaborate multi-channel concert hall performances. Regardless of venue, there is a growing interest in creating a sense of the presentation existing as an ‘event,’ moving beyond the basic audience/performer, ear/loudspeaker relationships to one that brings the listener into an active role in the performance, integrating elements of cross- or multi-sensory perception. This practice is becoming increasingly popular in visual and contemporary art, with a large number of artists integrating olfactory elements into their installations including Koo Jeong A & Bruno Jovanovik, Haegue Yang, and Federico Diaz (ARTnews, March 2011).

I am interested in documenting the growing number of EA concert events that combine sound with chemosensory elements (taste and smell). Since 2009 the number of EA presentations that have featured a curated concert with specially selected wine, food or liquor pairings to accompany each piece has grown rapidly. By combining elements of performance theory, sensory perception, wine culture and electroacoustic listening practices, this paper examines 5 recent public presentations in Canada and the USA that have combined food, drink and sound to create a cross-sensory concert experience: the Experimental Sound Studio’s Vinosonic I and II, Holophon’s Wine & JTTP-based Friend-raiser, their presentation of 60x60 at the Bushwakker Brew Pub, as well as Julia Miller’s *Articular Facet 3*. These events will serve as case studies for this paper, with comparisons made to other cross-sensory installations and presentations from artists working across contemporary art disciplines.



In addition to outlining contemporary electroacoustic music listening practices, presentation strategies and curatorial methodologies, I will outline the difficulties and rewards of attempting to curate a multi-sensory presentation environment, as well as outlining the strategies curators and composers have employed to impose or obscure meaning in the perceptual cross-talk between chemo- and vibratory-sensation. Using curatorial statements, artist interviews, audience feedback and first-person recollections, this paper outlines both how composers have created work for a particular sensory combination and to the methods employed by curators when they make their choices to combine certain sounds and flavours. I will also examine wine-tasting practices, terminology and the role of sommeliers in the curatorial process.

I aim to determine whether this quasi-synesthetic curatorial model has value in enhancing the perception of both sound and taste. Is this a sustainable method of EA concert curation, or is the offer of wine or liquor simply a ploy to encourage the normally reserved electroacoustic concert-going audiences to show up to an event? Other considerations will be brought into these case studies, including the importance of venue selection, and how these events differ from a popular music experience in a bar or restaurant. The final component of this paper will look to the future of this cross-sensory practice. Can these events bring in new audiences – further developing the appreciation of EA music in a long-term, sustainable way, or is this a flash-in-the-pan, a momentary affinity for a new or unusual concert experience?

**Eric Powell** is a sound artist and composer working with a wide variety of presentation methods including stereo and multi-channel tape, live performance with integrated electronics, as well as site-specific and interactive installations. In 2008 he received his MFA in electroacoustic composition from Simon Fraser University. Recently, he was commissioned by the Saskatchewan Arts Board to write a piece for multi-channel tape and chamber ensemble exploring the aural character of Saskatchewan. His work has been heard throughout Canada, Mexico and the USA with recent presentations at Toronto's New Adventures in Sound Art, Hamilton's James Street North Art Crawl, the Experimental Sound Studio in Chicago and the CanAsian Dance Festival in Toronto. He is a founding member of the Saskatchewan-based Holophon Audio Arts organization, and co-founder of electricity is magic - two groups dedicated to the creation and presentation of sound-as-art.

## Contact Info

Kevin Austin  
Concordia University, Montréal

kevin.austin@videotron.ca

Manuella Blackburn  
Liverpool Hope University

manuella@manuella.co.uk

Owen Coggins

owen\_coggins@yahoo.com.au

Guilio Colangelo

guiliocolangelo@gmail.com

Darren Copeland  
New Adventures in Sound Art, Toronto

artisticdirector@naisa.ca

Bruno Degazio  
Sheridan College

degazio@sheridanc.on.ca

Nicolas Drewski  
Acousrama

ndrewski@yahoo.fr

Arne Eigenfeldt  
Simon Fraser University, Vancouver

arne\_e@sfu.ca

Campbell Foster

camfos@gmail.com

Matthew Griffin  
The School of the Art Institute Chicago

magriggin@gmail.com

Christos Hatzis  
University of Toronto

christos@hatzis.com

Bentley Jarvis  
OCAD University, Toronto

bjarvis@faculty.ocad.ca

Tomás Henriques  
York University, Toronto

henriqit@buffalostate.edu

Tova Kardonne  
University of Toronto

tova.kardonne@utoronto.ca

Norah Lorway  
University of Birmingham

nora.lorway@gmail.com

Steven Naylor  
Acadia University

steven.naylor@sonicart.ca



David Ogborn  
McMaster University

Robert Phillips  
University of Buffalo, SUNY

Eric Powell

Ben Ramsay  
University of Toronto

Wiska Radkiewicz and Andrea Cohen  
Institute of Creative Technologies, UK

Mitch Renaud  
University of Toronto

Franz Rossati  
Conservatorio Licinio Refice, Frosinone

Martine Louise Rossiter  
University of Edinburgh

Fiona Ryan  
University of Toronto, Toronto

Elke Swoboda  
University of Buffalo, New York

Chiyoko Szlavnic  
Toronto

Nadene Thériault-Copeland  
New Adventures in Sound Art, Toronto

Alan Tormey  
Queens University, Kingston

Graeme Truslove  
University of Glasgow, Scotland

Alexa Woloshyn  
University of Toronto, Toronto

Bijan Zelli

ogbornd@mcmaster.ca

rip24@buffalo.edu

egpowell@gmail.com

ben@benramsay.co.uk

soundsonproject@yahoo.com

mitchrenaud@gmail.com

franzrosati@gmail.com

M.L.Rossiter@sms.ed.ac.uk

fiona.margaret.ryan@gmail.com

elke.swoboda@hotmail.com

chi@plainsound.org

naisa@naisa.ca

at12tone.@gmail.com

graemetruslove@yahoo.co.uk

alexa.woloshyn@utoronto.ca

bijamzelli@gmail.com