



CCM

COMPOSITION SERIES
PRESENTS

SONIC
EXPLORATIONS

Mara Helmuth, director

Wednesday, October 19, 2022
Cohen Family Theater
7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

VCV Improvisation

CiCLOP

Laptop Ensemble featuring:

B. Kieran McAuliffe

Grace Choi

Aaron Harris Woodstein

Brian Haack

Carl Jacobson

Mu-Tien Lai

Methane Rain

Liam Kornoely
(b. 2002)

Fixed media

If the Ocean had Wings...

Wenbin Lyu
(b. 1994)

Piano and electronics

Mu-Tien Tai, piano

Spear Etude No. 1

Andy McFarlane
(b. 1992)

Fixed media with visuals

caustic-machine

B. Kieran McAuliffe
(b. 1995)

Guitar and electronics

B. Kieran McAuliffe, guitar

Eight Puzzle Pieces

Ian Marr
(b. 2000)

Fixed media

PROGRAM

Neoplastic Miniatures

Carl Jacobson
(b. 1995)

Piano and electronics with visuals
John-Austin King, piano

Far Away

Serin Oh
(b. 1988)

Fixed media

Sinking... Thinking

Grace Choi
(b. 1994)

Flute and electronics with visuals
Julianna Eidle, flute

PROGRAM NOTES

Spear Etude No. 1

Spear (Sinusoidal Partial Editing Analysis and Resynthesis) is a program by Michael Kingbeil used by electronic music composers to enhance their works. As I worked with the program for the first time, to boost lower frequencies in parts of "Vigor | Disquiet," I became majorly sidetracked...

In this first etude, I took Spear's sinusoidal analysis of an ice skater's double lutz and reduced it to a few of its loudest partials. The entire piece was built by manipulating these few lines, which are stated (without manipulation), overlapped, and transposed to create the beginning gesture.

In my view, the piece can be enjoyed best if the viewer is prepared to watch closely, listen deeply, and/or laugh!

caustic-machine

This AI program listens to my live guitar improvisations and provides musical responses. Sometimes it will take the role of an accompanist which follows my lead, but other times it will make emphatic decisions which drastically change the course of the performance.

PROGRAM NOTES (continued)

Eight Puzzle Pieces

Eight Puzzle Pieces represents a culmination of my work across my three years in the CCM Composition Program. As the title suggests, the piece consists of eight works of varying styles, which have been layered together and run through a granulator in order to generate unfamiliar sounds. There are also a few instances of voice recordings, some of which are clear and understandable, while others have been transformed beyond recognition. The end result is a piece that presents several different musical themes that gradually warp together into something new and unrecognizable.

Neoplastic Miniatures

This piece is part response to and part sonification of eleven paintings by Piet Mondrian. A Dutch painter best known for his stark designs using only straight lines and blocks of color, Mondrian's earlier works display vibrant impressionist, pointilist, and cubist experiments. A set of variations traces the process of abstraction in his early works as a tree becomes reduced to a tangle of arcs, then a thicket of lines, and finally his iconic composition of black lines and primary color blocks. The paintings in his mature Neo-Plastic style are strictly sonified, moving from bottom to top in time with the horizontal axis mapped to pitch. Vertical lines become sustained tones, horizontal lines impulses, and color blocks are rendered as granular clouds.

Far Away

"Far Away," composed in 2021, describes a state of being away, such as between any different things, between Earth and other planets, and between people.

Sinking... Thinking

The flute symbolizes a man in thought, and the electronic describes the surroundings. Numerous thoughts take us little by little into deep water. The water can sometimes be a calm lake, a murmuring stream, or a violent ocean.

When we fall into a deep thinking and are swept away by the surf, we start to get lost by shaking
and trembling, regardless of our will.

However, the deeper we go down the ocean, the calmer we are. We can control the waves. A thin line of light will be found.