

Curatorial > VARIATIONS

With this section, RWM continues a line of programmes devoted to exploring the complex map of sound art from different points of view organised in curatorial series.

"Variation" is the formal term for a musical composition based on a previous musical work, and many of those traditional methods (changing the key, meter, rhythm, harmonies or tempi of a piece) are used in much the same manner today by sampling musicians. But the practice of sampling is more than a simple modernization or expansion of the number of options available to those who seek their inspiration in the refinement of previous composition. The history of this music traces nearly as far back as the advent of recording, and its emergence and development mirrors the increasingly self-conscious relationship of society to its experience of music. Starting with the precedents achieved by Charles Ives and John Cage, VARIATIONS will present an overview of the major landmarks in Sampling Music, following examples in 20th century composition, folk art and commercial media through to the meeting of all those threads in the present day.

Curated by Jon Leidecker.

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Jon Leidecker was born in 1970 in Washington D.C. to two physicists. Since 1990 he has performed appropriative collage music under the pseudonym Wobbly, aiming for extended narratives spun from spontaneous yet coherent multi-sample polyphony. Selected recent works are freely available online. <http://detritus.net/wobbly/>

VARIATIONS

#3

The Approach

The third episode takes us through the seventies. The avant-garde finally crosses the line into wholesale plundering of commercial pop music, and the pop disciplines of disco and dub become increasingly comfortable with manipulating released music into new forms, narrowing the divide between art and pop practices. Featured composers include Bernard Parmegiani, Ruth Anderson, William S. Burroughs, The Residents and Holger Czukay.

01. Summary

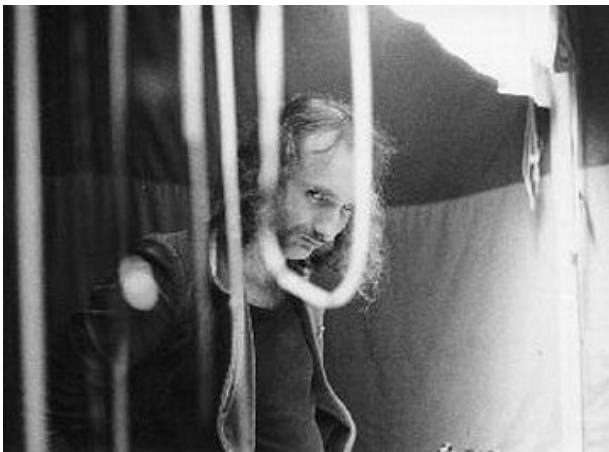
As the 60's came to a close, the progressive optimism of World music collages were met and tempered by a new strain of self-examination and critique. Composers shifted away from using obscure, generic, or safely public domain sources for their pieces, and began to work with instantly recognizable samples from commercial pop music on a much wider scale. As the focus turned from global to cultural, Utopian visions gave way to a pragmatic sense of musical research and development. This episode documents the collages of the 70's that began demolishing the distinctions between art and popular music, from concrète to dub to disco to the attention-deficit-disordering world of FM radio.

02. Playlist

- 01 Bernard Parmegiani "Pop'eclectic", 1969 (under narration)
- 02 Bernard Parmegiani "Du pop a l'ane", 1969
- 03 Luc Ferrari "Music Promenade", 1969
- 04 Luc Ferrari "Presque Rien", 1970 (under narration)
- 05 François Bayle "Solitioude", 1969
- 06 Frank Zappa "Nasal Retentive Calliope Music", 1968 (under narration)
- 07 Can "Prehistoric Future", 1968 (under narration)
- 08 Holger Czukay & Rolf Dammers "Canaxis", 1968 (under narration)
- 09 Holger Czukay & Rolf Dammers "Boat Woman Song", 1968
- 10 Jon Appleton "Chef d'oeuvre", 1967 (under narration)
- 11 J.O. Mallander "In Reality", 1970
- 12 Thunderboy (Ted Conrad recorded by Tony Conrad) "Let My", 1973 (under narration)
- 13 M.O.O.T. "Music Of Our Time (Columbia Records Promotional Single)", 1967
- 14 Lukas Foss "Phorion", 1968 (under narration)
- 15 Luciano Berio "Sinfonia" (third movement), 1969
- 16 Richard Trythall "Ommagio A Jerry Lee Lewis", 1975
- 17 Ruth Anderson "SUM (State of the Union Message)", 1973
- 18 Ruth Anderson "DUMP", 1970
- 19 Glenn Gould "Dialogues on the Prospect of Recording", 1965
- 20 Glenn Gould "The Well-Tempered Clavier Book 1, Fugue in A Minor", 1965 (under narration)
- 21 Glenn Gould "Stokowski - A Portrait For Radio ('Divorced From The West?')", 1971



[Mark Ford]



[Holger Czukay]

- 22 The Residents "Swastikas on Parade", 1976 (under narration)
- 23 The Residents "Beyond the Valley of a Day in the Life", 1976
- 24 Henry Cow "Live in Trondheim" (section five), 1976
- 25 Orchid Spangiafora "Flee Past's Ape Elf", 1978 (under narration)
- 26 Orchid Spangiafora "Dime Operation", 1978
- 27 King Tubby & Friends "Dub Investigation", 1977 (under narration)
- 28 DJ Francis Grasso (mix recreation): Chicago - "I'm A Man" (1970) + Led Zeppelin "Whole Lotta Love" (1969) (under narration)
- 28 Double Exposure "Ten Percent (Walter Gibbons mix)", 1976 (under narration)
- 29 Bunny Sigler "By The Way You Dance (mixed by Larry Levan)", 1979 (under narration)
- 30 Drake-Chenault Radio Documentary "Mark Ford Interview", 1977
- 31 Drake-Chenault Enterprises (Mark Ford, engineer) "Rock and Roll Timesweep, 1970's", 1977
- 32 WKRP in Cincinnati "The Contest Nobody Could Win", 1979
- 33 Can "Musik Extra 3 (Live TV)", 1977 (under narration)
- 34 Can "Animal Waves", 1977
- 35 Holger Czukay "Cool In The Pool", 1979
- 36 Holger Czukay "Persian Love", 1979

03. Selected bibliography

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- Cutler, Chris. liner notes to "Henry Cow: The Road", CD Box Set, ReR Megacorp, 2009
- Goldman, Albert. "Disco", Hawthorn Books, Inc., New York, 1978
- Gould, Glenn. "The Prospects of Recording", High Fidelity Magazine, vol. 16 no. 4, pp.46-63, 1966
- Gross, Jason. "Holger Czukay Interview", Perfect Sound Forever, 1997 (<http://www.furious.com/perfect/holger.html>)
- Wikipedia, "Drake-Chenault Enterprises", <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake-Chenault>
- Kampmann, Wolf & Hildegard Schmidt. "CAN BOX: BOOK", Medium Music Books, 1998.

04. Selected links

- Luciano Berio, "Sinfonia"
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinfonia_\(Berio\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinfonia_(Berio))
- Ruth Anderson
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruth_Anderson
- Glenn Gould, "The Prospects of Recording"
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/glenn Gould/028010-502.1-e.html>
- Orchid Spangiafora
<http://www.orchidspangiafora.com/old/old/history.html>
- The Residents
<http://www.residents.com/>
- DJ Francis Grasso
<http://ped111251.tripod.com/francis.htm>
- Drake-Chenault Enterprises
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake-Chenault>



MEET THE RESIDENTS
The First Album by North Louisiana's Phenomenal Pop Combo



[The Residents]

Drake-Chenault

<http://www.drakechenault.org/special.html>

Rock and Roll Timesweep

<http://www.some-assembly-required.net/blog/2008/08/hugo-keesing.html>

Holger Czukay

<http://www.furious.com/perfect/holger.html>

Music of Our Time - a guide to the electronic revolution in music

<http://www.johncage.info/cdlabels/columbiamt1.html>

05. Acknowledgments

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[François Bayle, Pierre Schaeffer, Bernard Parmegiani]