

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 #4

The Explosion

The fourth episode provides an overview as the art music tradition of collage music is joined by the popular culture tradition of hip hop, which would establish many of the same aesthetics and practices solidly in the mainstream. Featured composers include Grandmaster Flash, the Latin Rascals, David Byrne & Brian Eno & Negativland.

01. Summary

The late 70's saw the experimental tradition of collage continue in the form of Industrial Music & the cassette underground. But it took the sudden emergence of hip-hop culture for collage to make inroads towards the form of popular music, as DJs in the Bronx developed the mixer and the turntable into performative musical instruments for the stage. At the same time, academic and commercial firms brought a new and steadily more affordable device to the marketplace: a keyboard based, computer controlled instrument that came to be known as the Digital Sampler. Separate threads from different cultural backgrounds, traced as they rise to converge.

02. Playlist

- 01 Douglas Quin "Oropendola - Music By And From Birds - Dawn Chorus," 1994 (under narration)
- 02 William S. Burroughs "Captain Clark Welcomes You Aboard / The Total Taste Is Here, News Cut-ups," early 1960's (under narration)
- 03 Beatles "Revolution No. 9," 1968 (under narration)
- 04 Throbbing Gristle "I.B.M.," 1978 (under narration)
- 05 Cabaret Voltaire "The Voice of America," 1980 (under narration)
- 06 Afrika Bambaataa "Death Mix," 1983 (under narration)
- 07 Grandmaster Flash "Wild Style Kitchen Scene," 1982 (under narration)
- 08 Grandmaster Flash "Looking for the Perfect Beat Documentary," 1994 (under narration)
- 09 Grandmaster Flash "The Adventures of Grandmaster Flash on the Wheels of Steel," 1981
- 10 Grandmaster Flash & The Furious Five "Scorpio," 1982 (under narration)
- 11 World's Famous Supreme Team "Show Excerpt, October 1982," 1982 (under narration)
- 12 Dunya Yunis "Abu Zeluf / Music in the World of Islam Volume 1," 1976 (under narration)
- 13 David Byrne & Brian Eno "Regiment," 1981
- 14 David Byrne & Brian Eno "Moonlight in Glory," 1981
- 15 Malcolm McLaren "D'ya Like Scratchin' - Special Version," 1982
- 16 Double Dee & Steinski "Lesson One - The Payoff Mix," 1983
- 17 Latin Rascals (Big Apple Productions) "Genius at Work," 1984
- 18 Mix-Trix "In Vibe," 1983 (under narration)
- 19 Z-Rock "Scratch Party 1," 1983 (under narration)
- 20 Knights of the Turntables "Techno Scratch," 1984 (under narration)
- 21 B-Side / Fab Five Freddy "Change the Beat," 1982
- 22 Herbie Hancock "Rockit," 1983 (under narration)
- 23 Herbie Hancock & the Rockit Band "Rockit - Live," 1984 (under narration)
- 24 Pierre Schaeffer "Etude Pathétique," 1948 (under narration)
- 25 Milan Knížák "Broken Music Composition No. 1," early 1960's
- 26 Dennis Duck "Dennis Duck Goes Disco," 1977 (under narration)
- 27 Christian Marclay "Jukebox Capriccio," 1985
- 28 Heiner Goebbels / Alfred Harth "Peking-Oper," 1984
- 29 Charles Dodge "Any Resemblance Is Purely Coincidental," 1980



[Grandmaster Flash]



[Fairlight CMI]



[Negativland]

- 30 Daniel Steven Crafts "Snake Oil Symphony III," 1982
- 31 Steve Moore "The Threshold of Liberty," 1983
- 32 John Oswald / Mystery Labs "WX Part 2," 1983
- 33 Fairlight CMI Demonstration Tape, 1983
- 34 Slava Tsukerman, Brenda Hutchinson & Clive Smith "Liquid Sky," 1982 (under narration)
- 35 Kurzweil 250 Flexidisc Demo, 1985 (under narration)
- 36 Peter Gabriel "Rhythm of the Heat," 1982 (under narration)
- 37 The Art of Noise "Close to the Edit," 1985 (under narration)
- 38 Nu Shooz "I Can't Wait," 1985 (fragment)
- 39 Aleem "Release Yourself," 1984 (fragment)
- 40 Lisa Lisa & Cult Jam "I Wonder If I Take You Home," 1984 (fragment)
- 41 Jean-Michel Jarre "Zoolook (Effects) / Diva," 1984 (under narration)
- 42 Jean-Michel Jarre "Zoolook," 1984
- 43 Ryuichi Sakamoto "The 'Dreaming,'" 1985 (under narration)
- 44 Ryuichi Sakamoto "A Wongga Dance Song," 1985
- 45 The Art of Noise "Beat Box," 1984
- 46 Herbie Hancock "Metal Beat," 1984 (under narration)
- 47 Robert Ashley with Paul DeMarinis "What She Thinks (It's History)," 1976 (under narration)
- 48 Steven St. Croix "Marshall Time Modulator Demo Flexidisc", 1977 (under narration)
- 49 Jon Hassell w/ Michael Brook "Griot (Over 'Contagious Magic')," 1980 (under narration)
- 50 Jon Hassell "Empire IV," 1983
- 51 Carl Stone "Dong Il Jang," 1982 (under narration)
- 52 Carl Stone "Shibucho," 1984
- 53 Nicolas Collins "Devil's Music," 1985
- 54 Negativland "Over The Edge, Easter War Show," 1985
- 55 Negativland "Over The Edge, Cadillac + Credits," 1980
- 56 Negativland "A Big 10-8 Place Part One," 1983 (fragment)
- 57 Negativland "Christianity Is Stupid / Time Zones," 1987
- 58 John Oswald / Mystery Labs "x1 v2 + x5 v3.1" (under narration)

03. Selected bibliography

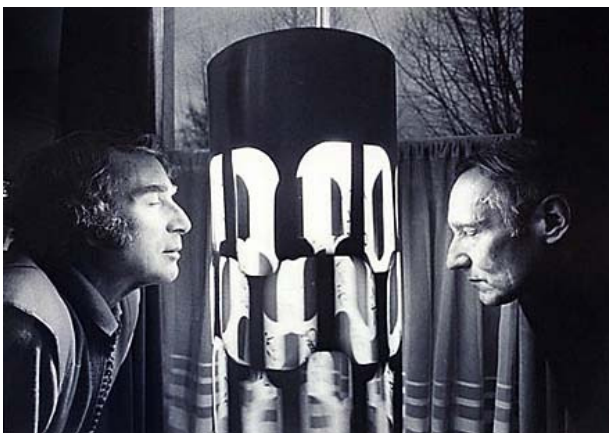
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[Synclavier 9600]



[World's Famous Supreme Team]



[William Burroughs and Brion Gysin]

04. Selected links

Technology

<http://www.ghservices.com/greg/fairligh/>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKoisNv1ftw>
<http://www.vintagesynth.com/misc/synclav.php>
<http://www.vintagesynth.com/emu/emulator.php>
<http://matrixsynth.blogspot.com/2007/07/marshall-time-modulator-and-marshall.html>
<http://www.vintagesynth.com/linn/linn2.php>

William S. Burroughs - "Electronic Revolution"

<http://archive.groovy.net/dl/elerev.html>

Guy Debord & Gil J Wolman - "A User's Guide to Détournement"

<http://www.bopsecrets.org/SI/detourn.htm>

DJ Kool Herc

<http://www.oldschoolhiphop.com/artists/deejays/kooldjherc.htm>

Grandmaster Flash

<http://www.grandmasterflash.com/>
<http://www.oldschoolhiphop.com/artists/emcees/furiousfive.htm>

Afrika Bambaataa

<http://www.oldschoolhiphop.com/artists/deejays/afrika.htm>

David Byrne - "Bush of Ghosts - Making of"

http://bushofghosts.wmg.com/essay_2.php

Double Dee & Steinski / The Latin Rascals

<http://www.thewire.co.uk/articles/2563/>

Scratch Mix Records

<http://scratchmix.net/>

Grandmixer D.ST.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UsW2SBcpxlQ>
<http://www.oldschoolhiphop.com/artists/deejays/grandmixerdst.htm>
<http://www.daveyd.com/historythedeelaydxt.html>

World's Famous Supreme Team

<http://blog.wfmu.org/freeform/2008/10/the-mix-machi-4.html>
<http://blog.wfmu.org/freeform/2008/10/the-mix-machi-1.html>

Christian Marclay

<http://www.furious.com/perfect/christianmarclay.html>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIFH4XHU228>

The Art of Noise

<http://www.pauseandplay.com/artofnoise.htm>

Daniel Steven Crafts

<http://www.dscrafts.net/snake1.htm>

Mystery Labs

<http://media.hyperreal.org/zines/est/intervs/oswald.html>

Jon Hassell

<http://www.allaboutjazz.com/php/article.php?id=32743&pg=1>

Carl Stone

<http://www.sukothai.com/>



[Double Dee and Steinski]



[David Byrne and Brian Eno]



[Trevor Horn]

Nicolas Collins

<http://www.nicolascollins.com/>

Negativland

<http://www.negativland.com/>

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