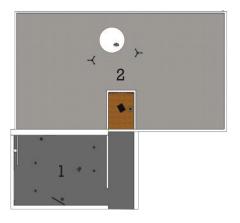


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1. Variations of 96 chords in space (feat. William Lane) 2022 - 2023

4-channel video with 6-channel audio (composition for viola, crotales, woodblock, self-playing piano, e-bows on piano strings, electronic sounds, water fountain, painted screens, and custom software), duration variable

2. Refrains and variations 2023

For solo performer with computer, MIDI breath controller, automated percussion instruments, speakers, color spotlight, color LED light bulbs, duration variable

think the audience can sit with Varia-tions of 96 chords in space (1) and enjoy it without knowledge of how it was put together, but for those who are curious, I have described my process in the passages below.

The system that underpinned the work is important insofar that it helped to sustain a process in this particular instance for longer than if I were to rely on intuition alone; but ultimately the experience - a sequencing of music and images that is sometimes ordered, sometimes (more often, actually) haphazard - is probably more important.

A. I started with a chart of 96 'color chords.' There are 12 hues of color within the set. Each hue is associated with a key area. Lighter tints yielded chords with fewer varieties of intervals, and as the color tone gets darker the intervallic relationships within a chord become more varied and complex.

B. The work of composing involved the arrangement of notes and sounds, but also the choreography other elements, including the microphones that 'listened' to the sources of these sounds. We used four kinds of microphones in this work: (1) a shotgun microphone, which is the most directional and has the shortest capture range, which I think of as the equivalent of a 'tight' camera frame; (2) an omni-directional microphone, a kind of 'mid-shot'; (3) binaural microphones that I was wearing over my ears, which is a kind of 'POV image' of the room that moves with me; (4) a XY stereo pair, which is placed at the front of the room. 1, 2 and 3 moved around the room to explore a variety of listening positions and range,

while mic 4 was stationary and stayed

with the front-of room camera.

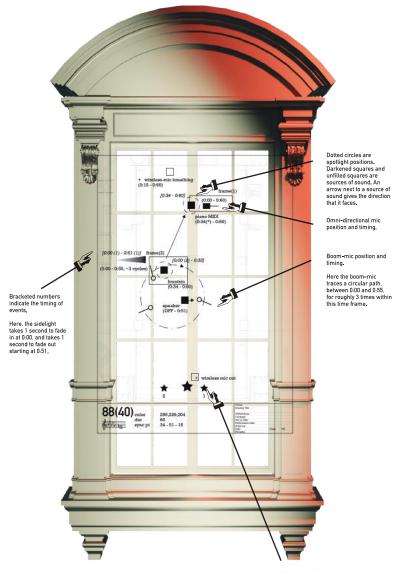
D. Each color chord gave rise to a short composition of either 60 or 90 seconds. Each short composition was filmed twice in the same theater, each time with a different subset of compositional elements.

E. The playback program stitches the individual clips back together in different ways and shuffles their order of appearance. In half of the time, the program will trace a randomly selected array of color hue, moving from lighter tints to darker shades. Once it reaches the end it will jump to the beginning of another array, until all 12 hues / 96 colors are heard. In these array-trace sequences, we see and hear the complete set of elements of a single color chord composition.

There is a fifty percent chance that an array-trace sequence will be interrupted by a "color mixing event": the simultaneous playback of either four randomly selected shades of the same color hue, or two randomly selected complementary colors. In these moments, subsets from several compositions are brought together instead.

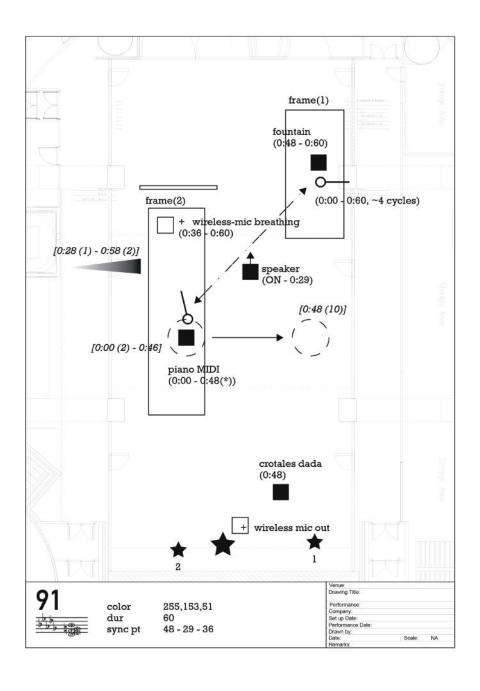
Below I have included a sample of spatial scores. The rest of them can be viewed via the QR code below.

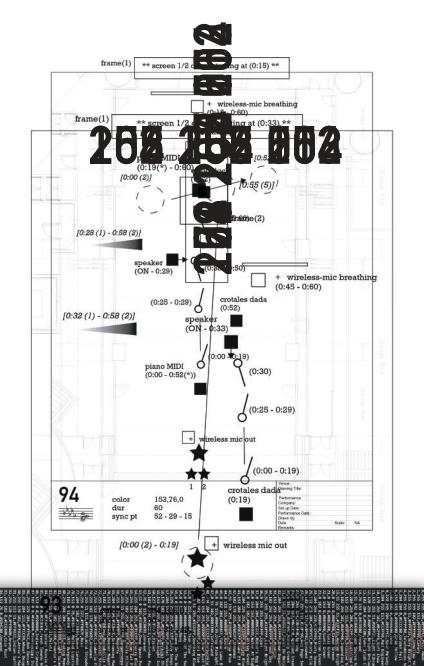




The stars indicate camera positions. The big star in the middle is a stationary room-wide frame; stars 1 & 2 are the lighter frames, and the recentangle that encloses a group of object indicate the framing for the corresponding camera.







B. The line between intention, interpretation, random-

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In Refrains and variations (2), I am a part of an open-ended composition that reoccurs in short segments, in different musical and spatial variations throughout the exhibition period.

The work derives its pitch materials from the chords-chart that (1) uses, but it is otherwise not related to (1). A program generates the composition in real time, starting with chord number 0 at the beginning of each day. Each segment is 225 seconds long. At the start of each segment the program also signals the spatial arrangement of the sound sources, which I then execute.

These sounds are streamed through the binaural headset that I am wearing over my ears. This is a type of microphone that gives the listener a better sense of being in a room from the wearer's POV.

Ocassionally I will read from my private notes, or play (listen to) other music.

Despite the setting I don't think of the listener as a voyeur. Hopefully we are approaching a kind of hospitality.



Frames and variations Petzel Gallery January 20 - March 4, 2023

Variations of 96 chords in space

Computer programming, composition, video and sound editing Samson Young

Viola William Lane

Camera Leung Ho Sing Leung Tin Chun Jimmy Lau Chun Yuen

Audio Chiu Ho Chi Brother Samson Young

Lighting Ho Yan Lam Coey Ng Ka Wai Dikky Kwan Ka Heng Jennifer Tam Ho Fung Edwin

Production management Jones Lee

Refrains and variations

Computer programming, composition and text Samson Young

Production assistant Homer Shew