

33degrees50minutes South Listen here
<http://www.syncsonics.com/music/PercussionCapy.html>

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Abstract

Background to the research or performance/installation

A performance from the CD *Parallel Lines* by noted electroacoustic ensemble SynC - fresh from the New York Electronic Arts Festival and the NIME2008 Conference in New York, SynC (Garth Paine and Michael Atherton) propose a performance utilising percussion and synthesis controlled by a Wacom Tablet. Instrumentation includes: Tuned and non tuned percussion [bass drum, tenor drum, set of roto-toms, 2 sets of bongos, clapsticks, cymbals, marimba and vibraphone; Capybara/Kyma system with Wacom Interface

Interdisciplinary issues

Realtime DSP, Alternative Controllers, Musical language

The issue/hypothesis under investigation

Focusing on the interface between acoustic and electronic music, SynC is an experimental ensemble for acoustic instruments and live electronics, including the processing of live acoustic input, cross-synthesis and synthesis artefacts. This composition/performance collaboration seeks to contextualise ancient and modern musical languages within a single form by utilising ancient and contemporary acoustic musical instruments (e.g. oud, hurdy-gurdy, gongs, marimba, percussion and flute) as the sonic foundation for complex live electronic processes, which generate a vast array of timbral environments, responsive to the acoustic input, but simultaneously independent. This exploration repositions the acoustic instruments, whilst also grounding the live electronic sounds within a rich musical heritage – producing the true music of our time. SynC engages with discourse around notions of composition/performance, particularly, how these can be defined as potentials rather than as fixed inscriptions, and how within a computer music/software based environment, the notions of instrument, composition and performance become blurred and possibly take on new meaning

Findings/description

Listen to an excerpt here <http://www.syncsonics.com/music/PercussionCapy.html>

Conclusions/future directions

The composition is a semi-improvised dialogue between of a range of tuned/non tuned percussion interuments and experimental electronic synthesis using a Wacom Tablet interface. Staccato interjections of roto toms and bongos, tenor and bass drum seek to disrupt the flow of the liquid, insect like peregrinations of electronic sounds that inhabit the foreground. Marimba passages insinuate themselves in a dialogue with the ebb and flow of synthesized material. And the introduction of spare piano chords and plucked stings adds to a texture that might be like the diurnal life of a city on the latitude 33 degrees 50 minutes, Sydney, experienced as the minutiae of tangles radio waves, signals and suppressed industrial sounds of this sub tropical city.