



Thursday, June 1, 20:00

CONCERT 3

Shard Speakers: Beyond Hexagons

by Anastasia Clarke

Transcontinental Grapevine

by Ivica Ico Bukvic

Pandemonium Quintet play Drone & Drama Versions

by Miguel Ortiz, Barry Cullen, Anna Weisling,
Rachel Austin and Paul Stapleton

Dream Structures

by Daniel Jones

Program Notes (Concert 3)

Shard Speakers: Beyond Hexagons

by Anastasia Clarke

If crystal bowls could speak, what would they say? **Beyond Hexagons** is a performance using the shard-speakers, a musical instrument and playback system created from the shards of broken crystal singing bowls with affixed transducers and resonators. Tracing their lifespans from quartz mines to factories and from scientific laboratories and sound studios, the bowls transmit their origin stories of purpose, function, and pleasure through a unique and alien sonic language that makes heavy use of improvisation, whimsy, and custom software instruments. The result is a sonic exploration of the paradoxes contained in these materials — strength and fragility, acuity and intuition, secrecy and frankness.

Transcontinental Grapevine

by Ivica Ico Bukvic

Transcontinental Grapevine is a new crowdsourced telematic work by the Virginia Tech Linux Laptop Orchestra (L2Ork) that was co-created and performed with collaborators from UNTREF, Buenos Aires, Argentina. The work is inspired by the introductory loop of the "Grapevine" song by Lane 8 and Elderbrook and utilizes L2Ork Tweeter online collaborative musicking platform that allows for perfect sync among performers regardless the distance (in this case two groups of performers, 11 in total, were over 5,000 miles apart). The work's EDM aesthetics intentionally seeks to test the limits of the newfound platform's ability to sync players, as well as to expand the telematic musical vocabulary. Every aspect of this work was co-created and realized collaboratively by contributors from two geographically distant areas. Virginia Tech L2Ork co-creators consist of Ivica Ico Bukvic, Justin Kerobo, Daniel Manesh, William Rhodes, Jacob Alan Smith, and Caden Vandervort. UNTREF L2Ork community co-creators include Uma Futoransky, Gala Lucía González, Joaquin Montecino, and Lauti Sosa. The work starts with Lane 8's "Grapevine" intro, and then crossfades into a crowdsourced theme and variations.

Pandemonium Quintet play Drone & Drama Versions

by Miguel Ortiz, Barry Cullen, Anna Weisling,
Rachel Austin and Paul Stapleton

Pandemonium Quintet play DIY electronic musical instruments (EMI). The group consists of five highly experienced music improvisers, visual artists and instrument makers dedicated to bringing audiences the finest in folktronic audio and cybernetic signals, vibrating together in heart-warming 12V ballads, oscillating between the sacred and the profane. Our current performance system is a synthesis of bespoke video and previously existing musical circuits that have been modified to promote productive instability within a restricted set of timbral possibilities. The aesthetic of our performance is informed by noise and free improvised musics.

Dream Structures

by Daniel Jones

Dream Structures is a live coding performance that uses computational audio analysis and machine learning to navigate and resample a half-terabyte archive of 90s/00s trance music, creating a live musical collage using fragments of audio from thousands of tracks. The system mines this archive for sounds of certain categories iconic to early trance and rave — animal noises, sirens, heartbeats — and uses them to generate ambient textural and rhythmic sequences, using generative patterns that are modulated on-the-fly. This is augmented by arpeggiated layers and pads using software emulations of iconic digital synthesizers including the Roland JP-8000 Super Saw, Akai MPC timestretch, and DX7 FM synth. Dream Structures is performed with SignalFlow, a free and open-source Python library for sound synthesis.