

MASTER'S THESIS

Sound and image: musical compositions in realization of intermedia

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**Sound and Image:
Musical Compositions in Realization of Intermedia**

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**A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
Master of Philosophy**

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Abstract

Sound and Image: Musical Compositions in Realization of Intermedia

Many composers and artists have been interested in the relationships between sound and image for centuries, which share common descriptions, such as color, brightness, rhythm and form. In the 19th and 20th century, with the aid of technologies, electric-light color organs were built to form such relationships. Alexander Scriabin use color organ to promote the relationship between music and color in *Prometheus: A Poem of Fire* in 1910. Since then more and more composers, such as the well-known French composer Olivier Messiaen, have started thinking both acoustically and visually. In addition, film technology has enabled artists to create abstract films connecting music and images, such as Walter Ruttmann's *Lichtspiel* series and Oskar Fischinger's *Optical Poem* (1938). After WWII, the development of computer technology is now used by virtually all artists in some form. In most recent decades, software is now one of the main tools with which to realize music with visual elements. Particularly, programming environments enable compositions in which sound and image interact with one another and this approach can be categorized as the genre of *intermedia*.

This thesis intends to realize connections between music and images through the creation of mutli-modal compositions. Three topic-related works have been written: *Oblivious Diary...* for clarinet, live electronics and video; *Placing a Star on a Sky* for string quartet, live electronics and video and *Con Fuoco Pointillism* for tape and video. Besides an analysis of all three pieces, two important concepts of intermedia, visualization and sonification, will be also discussed. For a more rounded composition portfolio, three additional acoustic works in different genres are also included.

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