

27th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE AND SOCIETY (E5)
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Mexico

SPACE AND SOCIETY MUSIC IN SPACE

Abstract

If we were to live outside of Earth, what knowledge and practices would we take with us?

Although the different branches of art are not crucial for our existence, such human creations have had a huge impact on our collective consciousness.

For centuries art together with other factors have been narrating the development of society. Man has made representations of natural phenomena – such as the rain, the stars, and the wind – through paintings, sculptures and music, among other media; however these representations have been generated in planet Earth.

Having said that, I have been curious to know: what worldview could one acquire if we were to live in outer space?

Gustav Holst imagined such piece in his orchestral Suite, Opus 32, The Planets. Stanley Kubrick in his film 2001 Space Odyssey immortalized Richard Strauss and his work Also sprach Zarathustra. Kubrick gives new meaning to Strauss' symphonic poem, and displays it as an iconic work in the perpetual quest of the relationship between anthropology and space.

However all of these (and more) pieces were conceived on the ground of planet Earth. And the question remains: In what way our conception of music would be altered if we were in space? What would be the music of the outer space age? How and what sounds would be an intrinsic part of a new spatial narrative?

Musicians like Tristan Murai, Karl Stockhausen, and Ligeti, have tried to use sound as a developing cell, exploring the evolution of sound in its purest form. Electroacoustic music has been a very useful resource in this exploration.

First, I would like to consider technology because it accompanies man in outer space. Technology is an armor that allows man to break the limits of the Earth's stratosphere.

This project involves using spacecraft and recordings stations, especially those messages sent from outer space to Earth; processing such audios through various electronic techniques; and generating musical material. This material will be combined with other material that pays homage to great composers from the past, i.e., poly-stylistic pieces representing society. The combination of electronically processed recordings from outer space with music that reflects part of the history of music is a metaphoric symbiosis of society with outer space. The result would be a number of pieces dedicated to man's relationship with outer space, using various electronic processes (link between man and outer space).