

Evidence @ Wave Farm
Active Listening & Group Improvisation Session
for our new work-in-progress:
Channel Surfing
8:00PM, September 19, 2007

Participant Information

In 2002, we created our composition “Out of Town”, which made use of the broadcast signal limitations of WRPI in Troy, NY. A broadcast of our composed signal was recorded from a car that was leaving the range of the station, creating patterns of interference and interactions with another station as our distance from Troy increased. The sonic effects created by this were layered with the original recording and then edited down into a short track.

This residency has allowed us to further explore the potential of this approach to music-making, letting the uncertainty and variety of broadcast interference sounds to fuse with pre-composed broadcast signals. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to play in this laboratory, where we could learn about and experiment with the effects of overlapping broadcast signals.

Tonight, we are broadcasting sounds on several frequencies which have been designed to be played simultaneously. Your participation completes the composition, as you mix and manipulate adjacent radio signals using the radio tuning dial, as well as your physical position and proximity to your radio’s antenna. Each radio has a different character, and the air itself has a signal topology which is yours to explore. A wide palate of textures, interferences, and interactions between the existing signals can be created through small adjustments of any of these controls, and we encourage you to experiment with this behavior.

We are documenting tonight’s session with field recording equipment, as well as through the cassette deck in the radio you are using. With your consent, we will use the recording you make of your channel surfing session to create the next stage of this work’s refinement – a series of edited tracks, comprised of layering and reorganizing the original broadcast signals with the recorded overlaps. We ask you to begin recording with your cassette deck at the beginning of the performance, and to flip your tape over to side B during the performance once side A is full.

Signals are being broadcast on the following FM frequencies:

- 89.5 – a local talk-radio station
- 89.3 – a stereo signal by Evidence
- 89.2 – a mono signal by Evidence
- 89.1 – a local classical music station
- 89.0 – a mono signal by Evidence
- 88.9 – a low-power stereo signal (in the Study Center only) by Evidence
- 88.7 – a stereo signal by Evidence
- 88.5 – a low-power stereo signal (in the Study Center only) by Evidence

Participants are encouraged to constrain their explorations to the 88.5-89.5 FM broadcast range during the session.

Our signals are being broadcast throughout the Wave Farm property, but are concentrated at the Study Center building. You are free to explore the grounds with your radio within the posted boundaries. The broadcast and recording session, once begun, will last 85 minutes.

Thank you for joining us!

-- Evidence (Stephan Moore + Scott Smallwood)