

Development of a piece specific notation as a compositional method for the live performance of electronic music

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My work seeks to invent piece specific notations that can be effectively translated across various electronic instruments or synthesis styles. The process of developing this notation then becomes part of my compositional method. A case study will be presented which exemplifies this issue.

Historically, electronic music has developed primarily as a studio art. The composer is more akin to the painter in the studio, where magnetic tapes or DAW acts as a canvas and various electronically generated or recorded sounds are used as paint. Live Electronics suffers from a diversity of options in synthesis and instrumentation, which though beneficial as a studio art, hinders attempts at creating notation which properly communicates the composer's conception of the work.

For me, however, the concert performance is important because it keeps the work alive. In the process of live performance, something of the original idea is inevitably lost, but something new is always added that never happens in a mere phonogram performance. As a composer I'm less interested in one perfect sounding version of my piece, but rather the variability, in the moment decision making, improvisational elements and shared musical experience.

In order to create such a notation, I will use a case study in which I will first describe the sonic characters of my work in my creative diary using a description derived from spectromorphology. I then develop a notation, or composition, based on this description, and compare the sonic outcome of live performance to my initial conception of the sounds of the work. During the presentation I will introduce one of the case studies.

If the notation system approach succeeds it opens up the possibility for other electronic music performers to play it.

Ekke Västriik, doctoral student and junior research fellow

Ekke Västriik is an Estonian composer, whose main focus is in Electronic Music. In 2011 Västriik graduated from the Baltic Film- and Media School with a main subject in Sound Design. He continued his studies at The Estonian Academy of Music and Theater (EMTA), specializing in Electro-Acoustic Composition. In 2016 Västriik graduated with a Bachelor's degree and continued studies at the Master's level, receiving his degree in 2018. Since 2022 he has been pursuing a Doctoral degree at EMTA, where he researches the communicative aspects of various kinds of notation for electronic instruments. Ekke Västriik is one of the founders of The Estonian Electronic Music Society and is an active member of The Estonian Electronic Music Society's Ensemble.