

Moving Sound: A Choreography-Inspired Approach to Spatial Electroacoustic Composition

Moving Sound: A Choreography-Inspired Approach to Spatial Electroacoustic Composition is an artistic research project that explores the perceived movement of sound as a compositional parameter through the lens of established theories of movement and dance. The expressive potential has received less attention compared to the technological aspects of spatial electroacoustic music composition, where various types of loudspeaker setups and algorithms are used to position and move sound sources within a three-dimensional listening space. This research project investigates how concepts taken from the field of choreography can inform and inspire the approach to spatialization in electroacoustic music.

The research methodology combines a series of case studies in which choreographic concepts, such as Rudolf von Laban's space harmony, are creatively translated into the spatialization process of three-dimensional sound in ambisonic format. The study employs Laban's movement analysis alongside Denis Smalley's spectromorphology to address movement phenomena across the visual and auditory domains. In addition, the author engages in collaborative, movement lab sessions with choreographers to gain an embodied understanding of the movement concepts used in the creative works. The outcome of this research project will be presented through a series of acousmatic compositions and concerts.



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Otto Iivari is Finnish electroacoustic composer and a doctoral student in the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre. His focus lies in the acousmatic, spatial electroacoustic music, designed for multichannel settings and ambisonic systems. Iivari likes to explore the potential of organic sound, emphasizing space and sound movement in his compositions. In his creative work he investigates the interconnectedness of expressive human movement and the perceived movement of sound. His compositions have been awarded in Europe's Student 3D Audio competition 2022, The International Sonosfera Ambisonic Competition 2023, The Prix CIME competition 2023 and Prix Russolo 2023. Otto Iivari is currently conducting artistic research under the guidance of Nikos Stavropoulos and Helena Tulve.