

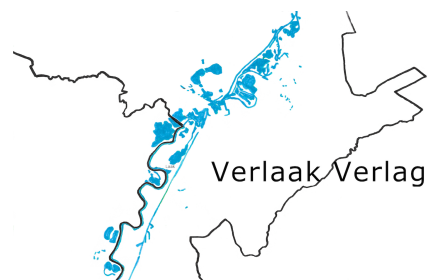
FM

For 5 performers
& electronics

Written for Dirty Electronics at
National Prague Radio Studio, CZ

November 2017

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Note: This piece was made for Dirty Electronics' November 2017 performance at the Czech National Radio Studio, however, it can be performed by any 5 performers as part of a radio studio recording or inside an isolated performance space (i.e. the audience is not in the same room).

Concept: 'FM' stands for Frequency Modulation. A voice or sound on the radio is carried on a single carrier frequency. When someone speaks to you in real life, their speaking voice uses many different frequencies. I therefore decided to create a system whereby all the frequencies in the voice become carrier frequencies, resulting in a voice on the radio travelling through hundreds of radio frequencies.

My work FM is a game. The performers try to find the correct radio frequency that the speaking voice is on. The voice is constantly moving through hundreds of different carrier frequencies in direct relation to the frequencies he or she is talking on. Only when the radio is tuned to the same carrier frequency as the frequency of the voice, one can hear the voice for a very short amount of time.

A real radio system like this is not possible: carrier frequencies are a lot higher than the frequencies a voice uses. In addition, a voice will change frequencies so rapidly it would never be possible to really find it and hear it for a sustained period of time. To facilitate such special radio functions, I reinvented the system by composing the operation and functions of radio technology. In addition, the search is made audible so that there is a clear link between the spoken frequencies and the radio frequencies.

1. Material

- Dishwasher brush
- Contact microphone
- Tape
- 3 tone generators
- 3 small jack cables
- Laptop
- Maxmsp patch
- Voice microphone
- XLR cable
- Soundcard with minimum 2 microphone inputs + 3 inputs for the tone generators