

## The Cambridge Companion to Electronic Music

Musicians are always quick to adopt and explore new technologies. The fast-paced changes wrought by electrification, from the microphone via the analogue synthesiser to the laptop computer, have led to a wide range of new musical styles and techniques. Electronic music has grown to a broad field of investigation, taking in historical movements such as *musique concrète* and *elektronische Musik*, and contemporary trends such as electronic dance music and *electronica*. This book, winner of the 2009 Nicolas Bessaraboff Prize, brings together researchers at the forefront of the sonic explorations empowered by electronic technology to provide accessible and insightful overviews of core topics and uncover some hitherto less-publicised corners of worldwide movements. This updated and expanded second edition includes four entirely new chapters, as well as new original statements from globally renowned artists of the electronic music scene, and celebrates a diverse array of technologies, practices and music.

Nick Collins is Reader in Composition at Durham University. His research interests include live computer music, musical artificial intelligence, and computational musicology, and he is a frequent international performer as composer-programmer-pianist or *codiscian*, from *algoraves* to electronic chamber music.

Julio d'Escriván is Senior Lecturer at the University of Huddersfield. He researches in film and audiovisual music composition and is himself a composer of music for the screen. His work spans electroacoustic and orchestral music, *electronica*, film music, commercials, live coding and improvisation.

## Cambridge Companions to Music

### Topics

**The Cambridge Companion to Ballet**

Edited by Marion Kant

**The Cambridge Companion to Blues and Gospel Music**

Edited by Allan Moore

**The Cambridge Companion to Choral Music**

Edited by André de Quadros

**The Cambridge Companion to the Concerto**

Edited by Simon P. Keefe

**The Cambridge Companion to Conducting**

Edited by José Antonio Bowen

**The Cambridge Companion to Eighteenth-Century Music**

Edited by Anthony R. DelDonna and Pierpaolo Polzonetti

**The Cambridge Companion to Electronic Music**

Edited by Nick Collins and Julio D'Escriván

**The Cambridge Companion to Film Music**

Edited by Mervyn Cooke and Fiona Ford

**The Cambridge Companion to French Music**

Edited by Simon Trezise

**The Cambridge Companion to Grand Opera**

Edited by David Charlton

**The Cambridge Companion to Hip-Hop**

Edited by Justin A. Williams

**The Cambridge Companion to Jazz**

Edited by Mervyn Cooke and David Horn

**The Cambridge Companion to Jewish Music**

Edited by Joshua S. Walden

**The Cambridge Companion to the Lied**

Edited by James Parsons

**The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Music**

Edited by Mark Everist

**The Cambridge Companion to the Musical, third edition**

Edited by William Everett and Paul Laird

**The Cambridge Companion to Opera Studies**

Edited by Nicholas Till

**The Cambridge Companion to the Orchestra**

Edited by Colin Lawson

**The Cambridge Companion to Percussion**

Edited by Russell Hartenberger

*For a complete list of titles published see end of book.*

The Cambridge Companion to  
**Electronic Music**

.....

EDITED BY  
Nick Collins  
*University of Durham*

Julio d'Escriván  
*University of Huddersfield*



Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-13355-6 — The Cambridge Companion to Electronic Music  
Edited by Nick Collins, Julio d'Escrivan  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
4843/24, 2nd Floor, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, Delhi – 110002, India  
79 Anson Road, #06-04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107133556](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107133556)

DOI: 10.1017/9781316459874

© Cambridge University Press 2017

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2007

7th printing 2013

2nd edition 2017

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

ISBN 978-1-107-13355-6 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-59002-1 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

## Contents

*List of Illustrations and Figures* page [vii]

*Notes on Contributors* [ix]

*Acknowledgements* [xiv]

*Chronology* [xvi]

Introduction *Nick Collins and Julio d'Escriván* [1]

1 The Origins of Electronic Music *Andrew Hugill* [7]

2 Electronic Music and the Studio *Margaret Schedel* [25]

3 Live Electronic Music *Nicolas Collins* [40]

4 A History of Programming and Music *Ge Wang* [58]

Artists' statements I [75]

Laurie Spiegel [75]

Yasunao Tone [76]

John Oswald [77]

Mathias Gmachl (Farmers Manual) [78]

Erdem Helvacioğlu [78]

Pauline Oliveros [79]

Chris Jeffs [80]

Rodrigo Sigal [80]

Mira Calix [81]

Seong-Ah Shin [81]

Carsten Nicolai A.K.A. Noto/Alva Noto [82]

Warren Burt [83]

Max Mathews [84]

5 Interactivity and Live Computer Music *Sergi Jordà* [86]

6 Algorithmic Composition *Karlheinz Essl* [104]

7 Live Audiovisuals *Amy Alexander and Nick Collins* [123]

8 Network Music *Julian Rohrer* [138]

9 Electronic Music and the Moving Image *Julio d'Escriván* [154]

*vi Contents*

- Artists' statements II [170]  
     Kevin Saunderson [170]  
     Kanta Horio [170]  
     Donna Hewitt [171]  
     Alejandro Viñao [171]  
     Bubblyfish [173]  
     Barry Truax [174]  
     Lukas Ligeti (Burkina Electric) [175]  
     Christina Kubisch [176]  
     Murat Ertel [177]  
     Adina Izarra [178]  
     CybOrk – Moscow Laptop Cyber Orchestra [178]  
     Francis Dhomont [179]  
     David Behrman [180]  
     Kevin Blechdom (Kristin Erickson) [181]  
     Karlheinz Stockhausen [183]  
     George E. Lewis [183]
- 10 Computer Generation and Manipulation of Sounds  
     *Stefania Serafin* [185]
- 11 Trends in Electroacoustic Music *Natasha Barrett* [201]
- 12 Electronic Sound Art and Aesthetic Experience  
     *Adinda van 't Klooster* [225]
- 13 DIY and Maker Communities in Electronic Music *John Richards* [238]
- 14 Extending the Instrumental Sound World Using Electronics  
     *Monty Adkins* [258]
- 15 The Analysis of Electronic Music *Mary Simoni* [274]
- Artists' statements III [292]  
     Éliane Radigue [292]  
     Daniel Miller [292]  
     Ikue Mori [293]  
     Chris Carter and Cosey Fanni Tutti [294]  
     Holly Herndon [295]  
     Vince Clarke [295]  
     Ralf Hütter [296]  
     Hasnizam Abdul Wahid [296]  
     Elsa Justel [297]  
     Beatriz Ferreyra [298]
- References* [299]  
*Index* [317]

## Illustrations and Figures

- 1.1 Russolo's *intonarumori* page [19]
- 1.2 Percy Grainger's Kangaroo Pouch Machine (courtesy of The Percy Grainger Society/Estate) [21]
- 1.3 Le Corbusier, Iannis Xenakis, Edgard Varèse: Philips Pavilion, 1958 [23]
- 3.1 Live performance of *Speaker Swinging* at the Music Gallery, Toronto, 1987 [54]
- 4.1 A simple Max/MSP patch which synthesises the vowel 'ahh' [68]
- 4.2 The SuperCollider programming environment in action [70]
- 4.3 The ChucK programming language and environment [72]
- 4.4 slub in action (photo by Renate Wieser) [73]
- 5.1 Michel Waisvisz performs with The Hands (photo: Carla van Tijn) [98]
- 7.1 VJ Olga Mink (Oxygen) (photo: Mark Trash) [132]
- 8.1 The Wilmington based Tel-musici Company, from the 18 December 1909 issue of Telephony [139]
- 8.2 Flyer by Rich Gold for the network ensemble The League from 1978, showing the different types of musical data exchange [143]
- 8.3 Adapted from Shannon's 'schematic diagram of a general communication system' (Shannon 1948) [146]
- 8.4 The network music ensemble The Hub, 1989 (top photo: Jim Block) and 2006 (bottom photo: Chianan Yen) [149]
- 8.5 Shared object [150]
- 8.6 Distributed object [151]
- 10.1 A simple analysis–transformation–synthesis representation based on spectral modelling [192]
- 10.2 The Karplus–Strong algorithm [195]
- 10.3 The exciter–resonator approach to physical modelling synthesis [195]
- 12.1 *Salinity Sampler Sequencer*, Owl Project, 2012 (photo by Jill Tate) [230]
- 12.2 Original poster for the Soundwalking radio show of Hildegard Westerkamp (1978/79) [234]

viii *List of Illustrations and Figures*

- 13.1 Jukka Hautamäki's live set up, Madame Claude, Berlin, August 2012 [246]
- 13.2 *A piece for one, two and three Sudophones* (2010) by Visa Kuoppala [251]
- 13.3 *adempercloep* (2016) Gijs Gieseke [253]
- 13.4 Howse's *Earthvoice* (2015) performance [254]
- 15.1 The first 21 seconds of Paul Lansky's *Mild und leise* (1973) in a time domain plot [280]
- 15.2 Music notation corresponding to the sonic material of Figure 15.1 [281]
- 15.3 Frequency domain snapshot of the first sound object of *Mild und leise* [281]
- 15.4 Spectrogram of the left channel of the first 21 seconds of *Mild und leise* [282]
- 15.5 The opening of Radiohead's *Idioteque* (2000) overlaid with *Mild und leise* in digital audio workstation software [283]
- 15.6 Spectrogram created in Sonic Visualiser software for the Source recording of Alvin Lucier's *I am sitting in a room* (1970) [290]



## Notes on Contributors

**Monty Adkins** is a composer, performer and Professor of Experimental Electronic Music at the University of Huddersfield. He has created installations, concert and audiovisual works, and collaborated with contemporary performers, writers, painters, video artists and photographers. His recent work since 2008 has been released by Audiobulb (UK), Cronica (Portugal) and empreintes DIGITALEs (Canada). Adkins is also active as a writer and concert curator. He completed his first book in 2011 (co-written with Pip Dickens) on the relationship between art and music (*Shibusa – Extracting Beauty*) and has edited two books on the music of Roberto Gerhard (Ashgate 2013 and Cambridge Scholars Press 2016). He has also contributed articles and chapters on the aesthetics of digital music to various journals (*Organised Sound et al.*) and is on the editorial board for the *Journal of Music Technology and Education*.

**Amy Alexander** is a digital media, audiovisual and performance artist who has also worked in film, video, music, tactical media and information technology. Alexander's projects have been exhibited and performed internationally in festivals and museums as well as on the Internet, in clubs and on the street. She has written and lectured on software art and culture and audiovisual performance, and she has served as a reviewer for both visual media and computer music events and publications. Alexander is an Associate Professor of Visual Arts at the University of California, San Diego. <http://amy-alexander.com>

**Natasha Barrett** (UK / Norway) is a composer, performer and researcher in the field of contemporary electroacoustic art music. She received her doctoral degree in 1998 from City University in London and has since followed a career predominantly as a freelancer. Her work encompasses acousmatic and electroacoustic concert composition, sound installations, theatre music, large-scale outdoor media productions, sound-architectural works and interactive art. She regularly collaborates with designers and scientists, as well as musicians and visual artists. Her work is inspired by acousmatic sound and the aural images it can evoke, particularly in terms of the evocative implications of space. Besides her compositional activities, she has been employed as a researcher at the Department for Musicology, University of Oslo, and as a professor in electroacoustic composition at the Norwegian State Academy for Music. Barrett's works are performed and commissioned throughout the world and have received a long list of prizes. These include the Nordic Council Music Prize (Nordic Countries), Giga-Hertz Award (Germany), Edvard Prize (Norway), Jury and public first prizes in Noroit-Leonce Petitot (France), five first prizes and the Euphonie D'Or in the Bourges International Electroacoustic Music Awards (France), Musica Nova (Prague), CIMESP (Brazil), Concours Scrimé

x *Notes on Contributors*

(France), International Electroacoustic Competition Ciberart (Italy), two prizes in Concours Luigi Russolo (Italy), and two first prizes in the International Rostrum for electroacoustic music. [www.natashabarrett.org](http://www.natashabarrett.org)

**Nick Collins** is Reader in Composition at Durham University. His research interests include live computer music, musical artificial intelligence, and computational musicology, and he is a frequent international performer as composer-programmer-pianist or codiscian, from algoraves to electronic chamber music. Many research papers and much code and music is available from [composerprogrammer.com](http://composerprogrammer.com)

**Nicolas Collins** New York born and raised, Nicolas Collins spent most of the 1990s in Europe, where he was Visiting Artistic Director of Stichting STEIM (Amsterdam), and a DAAD composer-in-residence in Berlin. An early adopter of microcomputers for live performance, Collins also makes use of homemade electronic circuitry and conventional acoustic instruments. He is a Professor in the Department of Sound at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and from 1997 to 2017 was editor-in-chief of the *Leonardo Music Journal*. His book, *Handmade Electronic Music – The Art of Hardware Hacking* (Routledge), has influenced emerging electronic music worldwide. [www.nicolascollins.com](http://www.nicolascollins.com)

**Julio d'Escriván** is a Venezuelan composer working in music for the screen. His work since the late 1980s spans electroacoustic and orchestral music, electronica, film music, commercials, live coding and improvisation. Although most of his career has been as a freelance in the Americas, he currently works as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Huddersfield; there he lectures and researches in film and audio-visual music composition.

**Karlheinz Essl** is an Austrian composer, improviser and performer, born in 1960 in Vienna. He studied composition with Friedrich Cerha and musicology at the University of Vienna (doctorate 1989, with a thesis on Anton Webern). Besides writing experimental instrumental music, he performs on his own computer-based electronic instruments, develops algorithmic composition software and creates generative sound and video environments. From 1990 to 1994 he was composer-in-residence at the Darmstadt summer courses, and from 1992 to 1993 he worked as a commissioned composer at IRCAM/Paris. In the period 1995–2006 he taught 'algorithmic composition' at the Bruckner-University in Linz. Since 2007, he is professor of composition for electro-acoustic and experimental music at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna.

**Andrew Hugill** (1957) is Director of the Centre for Creative Computing at Bath Spa University. Between 1976 and 1980, he studied composition with Roger Marsh at the University of Keele. After university he earned a living as a music copyist and as musical assistant at the Opéras de Lyon and Paris, before beginning his academic career in 1986. Hugill's compositions have been performed and broadcast worldwide. *Symphony for Cornwall* (1999) used the internet in a ground-breaking way. *Secret Garden* (2013) was experienced by 36,500 people during its two month exhibition in the Taipei Museum of Contemporary Art. Hugill's research is trans-disciplinary, covering composition, musicology, computer science and literature.

*xi Notes on Contributors*

He is the author of *The Digital Musician* (Routledge 2008/2012) and *Pataphysics: A Useless Guide* (MIT Press 2012). He is a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

**Sergi Jordà** holds a BS in Fundamental Physics and a PhD in Computer Science and Digital Communication. He is a researcher at the Music Technology Group of Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, where he directs the Music and Multimodal Interaction Lab, and associate professor at the same University, where he teaches computer music, Human Computer Interaction (HCI) and interactive media arts. His main research interests are in the confluence of HCI, tangible, musical and physiological interaction, and is currently specially interested in bringing MIR knowledge for helping music creation and for creating empowering musical tools. He has authored more than 100 publications counting peer-reviewed conference papers, journal articles and book chapters. He is also a digital luthier and improviser, who likes to invent new digital musical instruments without forgetting to make music with them. He is best known as one of the inventors of the Reactable, a tabletop musical instrument that accomplished mass popularity after being integrated in Icelandic artist Björk's 2007–08 world tour Volta, and he is one of the co-founders of the company Reactable Systems. He has received several international awards, including the prestigious Prix Ars Electronica Golden Nica (2008).

**Adinda van 't Klooster** is an artist who works with drawing, sound, light, animation, sculpture and interactive audiovisual performance and installation. Her work has been exhibited, performed and screened in China, the USA, Australia, Slovenia, Spain, Scotland, the Netherlands, England, Norway and Ireland. Her research interests include emotion-aware artworks, biofeedback art, aesthetic experience, sound art, interactive art and graphical scores. She has been involved in multiple interdisciplinary projects that explore the links between music and art. Her work has received many awards and has been commissioned throughout the UK. Examples can be seen at [www.adindavantklooster.com](http://www.adindavantklooster.com) and [www.affectformations.net](http://www.affectformations.net)

**John Richards** explores the idea of Dirty Electronics, which focuses on shared experiences, ritual, gesture, touch and social interaction. In Dirty Electronics process and performance are inseparably bound. The 'performance' begins on the workbench devising instruments and is extended onto the stage through playing and exploring these instruments. Richards is primarily concerned with the performance of large-group electronic music and DIY electronics, and the idea of composing inside electronics. His work also pushes the boundaries between music, performance art, electronics, and graphic design and is transdisciplinary as well as having a socio-political dimension. [www.dirtyelectronics.org](http://www.dirtyelectronics.org)

**Julian Rohrer** is a German artist and theorist. As professor for music informatics and media theory at the Robert Schumann Hochschule in Düsseldorf, he develops the intersections between art, programming and philosophy. His art projects include compositions, installations and performances, film sound tracks, a system for interactive sound programming, and collaborative and network art pieces. He writes on topics such as philosophy of mathematics, education politics, documentary realism, distributed agency, and algorithmic time.

xii *Notes on Contributors*

**Margaret Anne Schedel** is a composer and cellist specialising in the creation and performance of ferociously interactive media whose works have been performed internationally. Her research focuses on gesture in music, the sustainability of technology in art, and sonification of data. As an Associate Professor of Music at Stony Brook University, she serves as Co-Director of Computer Music and is the Director of cDACT, the consortium for digital arts, culture and technology. She ran SUNY's first Coursera Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), an introduction to computational arts. Schedel holds a certificate in Deep Listening and is a joint author of Cambridge University Press' *Electronic Music*. She has been commissioned by the Princeton Laptop Orchestra, the percussion ensemble Ictus, and the reACT duo. She sits on the boards of 60x60, the International Computer Music Association, is a regional editor for Organised Sound and an editor for Cogent Arts and Humanities. In her spare time she curates exhibitions focusing on the intersection of art, science, new media, and sound.

**Stefania Serafin** is currently Professor with special responsibilities in sound for multimodal environments at Aalborg University Copenhagen. She received a PhD in computer-based music theory and acoustics from Stanford University in 2004, and a Master in Acoustics, computer science and signal processing applied to music from IRCAM (Paris), in 1997. She has been a visiting professor at the University of Virginia (2003), and a visiting scholar at Stanford University (1999), Cambridge University (2002), and KTH Stockholm (2003). She was principal investigator for the EU funded project Natural Interactive Walking (FET Open), Digital Reworking of Electroacoustic Music (EU Culture 2000), and Danish delegate for the EU COST Actions on Sonic Interaction Design and Wood Music. Her main research interests include sound models for interactive systems, multimodal interfaces and virtual reality, and sonic interaction design.

**Mary Simoni** is a composer, author, teacher, pianist, consultant, arts administrator, and amateur photographer. She is currently the Dean of Humanities, Arts & Sciences at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Professor Emerita, Performing Arts Technology at the University of Michigan. Her music and multimedia works have been performed in Asia, Europe, and throughout the United States and have been recorded by Centaur Records, the Leonardo Music Journal published by the MIT Press, and the International Computer Music Association. She is the recipient of the Prize in Composition by the ArtNET Virtual Museum and named semi-finalist for the American Prize in Composition-Chamber Music. Her music is frequently recognised by Vox Novus. She has authored several books, *Algorithmic Composition: A Guide to Composing Music with Nyquist* co-authored with Roger Dannenberg and published by the University of Michigan; and *Analytical Methods of Electroacoustic Music* published by Routledge. She is a Medal Laureate of the Computer World Honors Award for her research in digital music information retrieval.

**Ge Wang** is an Assistant Professor at Stanford University's Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA). He researches programming language and software design for music, interaction design, mobile music, laptop

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-13355-6 — The Cambridge Companion to Electronic Music  
Edited by Nick Collins, Julio d'Escrivan  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

---

*xiii Notes on Contributors*

orchestras, aesthetics of music technology design, and education at the intersection of engineering, art, and design. Ge is the author of the ChucK music programming language, the founding director of the Stanford Laptop Orchestra (SLOrk), the Co-founder of Smule (reaching over 125 million users), and the designer of the iPhone's Ocarina and Magic Piano.

## Acknowledgements

So begins a round of thanks to many individuals, and most especially, those we've inevitably forgotten to mention. The editors wish to thank all of the contributors to this book who've put up with our requests and editing. Without the chapter authors and the artists who have kindly provided statements, there would hardly be any book to have the honour of editing!

We also have to say a big thank you specifically to Vicki Cooper, Becky Jones, Helen Waterhouse, Jo Breeze, Michael Downes, Chloe Harries, Kate Brett, Sophie Taylor, Sharon McCann, Phil Clement, Laura Macy and all others associated with the production of the book at Cambridge University Press.

For external reviews of chapters we very much appreciate the time and effort of Robert Rowe, Chris Brown, Fredrik Olofsson, Bill Hsu, Alberto de Campo, Bob Gluck, Brian Kane, John Hawks, Michael Scroggins, Curtis Roads and Jøran Rudi. Additional proofreading and comments were provided by a number of the chapter authors.

For assistance with obtaining artists' statements, many thanks to Terumi Narushima, Joana Seguro, Daniel Klemm, Sharen Norden, Zoe Miller, Dave Griffiths, Ryoko Akama, Falk Grieffenhagen, Isa Wolf, Matthew Werth, Brandon Sanchez, Kathinka Pasveer, and of course to the various chapter authors, friends and enemies who themselves suggested people and helped us to get in contact with them.

Karlheinz Essl wishes to thank Florian Cramer (Rotterdam) for his attendance to discuss the history of algorithmic thinking in philosophy and literature and Jennifer Walshe (Berlin/New York) for proofreading the manuscript.

Meg Schedel owes a debt of gratitude to her proofreading parents, Rita and Charles Schedel.

Julian Rohrerhuber appreciates the immensely useful advice from, and acknowledges the inspirations of, his colleagues. He'd like to thank Anthony Moore, Alberto de Campo, Renate Wieser, Chris Brown, Julio d'Escriván and Nick Collins for their generous interest in his article. He'd also like to express gratitude to Kurd Alsleben, Antje Eske, Jin Hyun Kim, Hannes Hölzl, Alex McLean, Frank Wörler, Guy van Belle, Georg Hajdu, Maarten Bullynck and many others, who pointed out numerous interesting aspects of networks and network art.

Ge Wang wishes to extend hearty thanks to Perry Cook for his teaching and insights on the history of programming and music, to Ananya Misra for providing invaluable feedback from beginning to end, to Mark Ballora for his excellent online history of computer music, to Max Mathews for information and perspective, and to Rebecca Fiebrink, Spencer Salazar and Matt Hoffman for their support.

*xv Acknowledgements*

Nick Collins thanks everyone who suffered any editorial attention from him, and acknowledges with great respect and warmth his collaborators and colleagues in the field. He particularly welcomes the support and essential input of his co-editor. He also wishes to extend a special thank you to the third person.

Julio d'Escriván wishes to thank Julian Rohrer for his review and suggestions. Also a special thanks to his co-editor, for roping him into this wonderful project and for his invaluable constructive criticism. A warm thanks to Sue Guilmurray from the university library at ARU, Cambridge. And ... very especially he wishes to acknowledge the love, patience and support of Milly, Isa, Mari, Emi and Ana throughout this project.

## Chronology

- 569–475 BC Pythagoras leads the elitist *mathematikoi* and *akousmatikoi*
- 1026 Guido d'Arezzo's vowel-to-pitch mapping procedure for composing melodies for texts
- 1626 Francis Bacon describes the 'sound-house' in *The New Atlantis*
- 1734 Louis Bertrand Castel builds a prototype *clavecin oculaire*, the first light organ
- 1738 Jacques de Vaucanson's flautist automaton is exhibited
- 1757 Johann Philipp Kirnberger's *Allezeit fertiger Polonoisen und Menuettencomponist* ('The always ready Polonaise and Menuet Composer'), a musical dice game
- 1761 Jean-Baptiste Delaborde builds the *Claveçin Electrique* in Paris
- 1843 Lady Ada Lovelace describes the possible musical applications for Charles Babbage's machine in *The Sketch of the Analytical Engine*  
 A. Seebeck formulates the *rate theory* which states that neural firing patterns encode the periodic structure of auditory stimuli
- 1857 Leon Scott invents the *phonoautograph*
- 1864 Innocenzo Manzetti invents a 'speaking telegraph' for his musical automaton
- 1876 Alexander Bell's (controversial) telephone patent  
 Thomas Edison invents the carbon microphone
- 1877 Co-invention by Charles Cros and Thomas Edison of the phonograph  
 Ernst Werner von Siemens invents the loudspeaker
- 1881 Clément Ader demonstrates stereo broadcast with the premiere of his Théâtrophone, conveying music from the Paris Opéra to the World Expo
- 1897 Thaddeus Cahill patents the *Art of and Apparatus for Generating and Distributing Music Electronically*
- 1898 Valdemar Poulson patents a magnetic *Telegraphone*, which can both record and play back sound
- 1899 William Duddell invents the *Singing Arc*
- 1906 Cahill finally builds the Telharmonium  
 Lee De Forest invents the triode vacuum tube (which he calls the *Audion*), allowing controlled amplification; ironically, Cahill could have used this invention to make the Telharmonium much smaller!
- 1909 The Tel-musici Company combine a telephone exchange with a music room; they are bankrupt within a few years, just like Cahill



xvii *Chronology*

- 1913 Luigi Russolo writes his manifesto *The Art of Noises*
- 1920 Lev Termen invents the Theremin
- 1924 Ottorino Respighi combines a phonograph playing alongside an orchestra in *Pini di Roma*.
- 1928 Fritz Fleumer invents the magnetic tape recorder in Germany  
 Maurice Martenot invents the *Ondes Martenot*
- 1929 Friedrich Trautwein invents the *Trautonium*
- 1930 Walter Ruttmann's *Weekend* is an early precedent in juxtaposition of fragments of recorded sound,  
 Paul Hindemith and Ernst Toch hold a multiple turntable concert of *Grammophonmusik* in Berlin, with young exchange student John Cage in attendance
- 1931 An electroacoustic montage is created by the sound department of Paramount Studios in Hollywood, for the film *Jekyll and Hyde*
- 1932 In Oskar Fischinger's film, *Tönende Ornamente* (Ornament Sound), the soundtrack is created by drawing directly onto the optical soundtrack
- 1933 The theremin is used by composer Max Steiner to expand the timbral palette of the orchestra in the film *King Kong*
- 1936 Varèse publishes his manifesto *The Liberation of Sound*
- 1937 John Cage delivers his lecture *The Future of Music: CREDO*
- 1938 Orson Welles' *War of the Worlds* radio play successfully deceives its audience into believing a Martian invasion is taking place  
 Johanna Beyer's *Music of the Spheres* is composed, with parts for three electrical instruments and two percussion instruments
- 1939 Cage begins working with live electronic sound in his piece *Imaginary Landscape No. 1*
- 1944 Egyptian-born Halim El-Dabh experiments by electronically processing recordings made with a wire recorder, a medium that predated tape
- 1946 *The Schillinger System of Musical Composition* is published posthumously  
 Raymond Scott writes the patent disclosure for the 'orchestra machine'
- 1948 At the French National Radio-Television (RTF), Pierre Schaeffer experiments with mixing pre-recorded sources on various turntables and creates *Etude aux Chemins de Fer*. The RTF studios eventually host the Groupe de Recherches Musicales (GRM)  
 Claude Elwood Shannon publishes *A Mathematical Theory of Communication*
- 1951 Pierre Schaeffer and Pierre Henry compose *Symphonie pour un homme seule*, a landmark in musique concrète  
 The Studio für Elektronische Musik at West German National Radio (WDR) is founded in Cologne  
 Percy Grainger invents the *Kangaroo Pouch Machine*

xviii *Chronology*

- The Columbia Tape Music Center, in New York, is started by Luenning and Ussachevsky. It would later become the Columbia–Princeton Electronic Music Center in 1959
- Louis and Bebe Barron compose *Heavenly Menagerie* in their studio, months before the more famous Cologne Studio is established
- Bernard Herrmann uses theremins as main instruments with the film orchestra in his score for *The Day the Earth Stood Still*
- Schaeffer investigates spatialisation with the *potentiomètre d'espace*
- 1952 Schaeffer publishes a syntax for musique concrète in the treatise *Esquisse d'un solfège concret*
- Monique Rollin's *Étude Vocale* (1952) is an early musique concrète study
- Cage is composing *Williams Mix* (completed by 1953); the realisation takes a team of tape splicers (in reality, Louis and Bebe Barron) many months
- 1953 In Milan, the Studio di Fonologia is established. In Tokyo the Electronic Music Studio for Japan Radio (NHK) is opened
- Herbert Eimert composes *Struktur 8*
- 1950–4 Varèse composes *Déserts*, which combines an ensemble of live instrumentalists with tape
- 1955–9 Lejaren Hiller and Leonard Isaacson experiment with using a mainframe computer to algorithmically generate musical scores, composing the *Illiad Suite* for string quartet in 1956
- 1955 Iannis Xenakis publishes *The Crisis of Serial Music*, critiquing integral serialism on psychological and statistical grounds
- 1956 Louis and Bebe Barron create the first purely electronic film score for *Forbidden Planet*
- In the Netherlands, the Center for Electronic Music is established within the Philips Research Laboratory
- Stockhausen's *Gesang der Jünglinge* combines concrète and elektronische
- Xenakis completes the first granular study: *Analogue B*
- 1957 In Warsaw, the Studio Experimentalne is established at Polish National Radio
- The Bell Telephone Laboratories host the first digital music experiments: Max Mathews programs the first sounds ever generated by a digital computer and creates *MUSIC 1*, the earliest programming environment for sound synthesis
- 1958 The BBC Radiophonic Workshop is founded, after years of effort from Daphne Oram in particular
- Xenakis designs the Philips Pavilion at the Brussels World's Fair for which Varèse composes *Poème électronique*; Xenakis also provides *Concrèt PH* for the interludes between shows

*xix Chronology*

- In Santiago de Chile, the Laboratorio de Acústica is used for the earliest electronic music in South America
- Raymond Scott invents and begins development of the Electronium, an algorithmic composing machine without a musical keyboard
- In Toronto, the University of Toronto Electronic Music Studio is founded
- 1958–60 Stockhausen works on *Kontakte*
- 1960 Andrej Markowski creates, at the Experimental Studio in Warsaw, electronic music and sound design for *The Silent Star*, directed by Kurt Maetzig
- Raymond Scott composes a completely electronic soundtrack for the *Vicks: Medicated Cough Drops* commercial
- 1961 The Norsk Rikskringkasting (NRK) in Oslo allows its studios to be used for the earliest experiments in electronic music in Norway
- Kelly and Lochbaum design an algorithm to simulate the human vocal tract
- James Tenney creates the plunderphonic tape piece *Collage #1 (Blue Suede)*, sampling and manipulating a famous Elvis track
- 1962 In Buenos Aires, the Laboratorio de Música Electrónica associated to the Instituto Torcuato di Tella is founded; in Ghent, Belgium, the Institut vor Psychoakoestiek en Elektronische Muziek; in East Berlin, the Experimentalstudio für Kunstliche Klang und Gerauscherzeugung, Laboratorium für Akustisch-Musikalische Grenzprobleme
- 1963 Gottfried Michael Koenig's *Projekt 1* program is devised, for automatic aleatoric serial composition
- 1964 Stockhausen composes *Mikrophonie I* for amplified and processed tam-tam
- Jean-Claude Risset visits Bell Labs for the first time and uses MUSIC IV to investigate the timbre of trumpets
- 1965 Steve Reich creates his first phase piece: *It's Gonna Rain*
- Alvin Lucier creates his *Music for Solo Performer*, the first live electronics piece to use amplified alpha brainwaves
- 1967 In Gordon Mumma's composition *Hornpipe* an analogue device analyses and amplifies the resonances of the hall in which a performer is playing the French horn, thus predating interactive machine-listening systems
- John Chowning discovers Frequency Modulation sound synthesis
- 1968 MUSIC V becomes the first computer music programming system to be implemented in FORTRAN
- David Tudor composes the first of his *Rainforest* pieces, featuring a multitude of objects acting as loudspeakers dangling directly from their cables

xx *Chronology*

- Raymond Scott invents the first 'drum machine', *Bandito the bongo artist*
- Jean-Claude Risset creates a catalogue of computer-generated sounds at Bell Labs including guidelines to synthesise different musical instruments using MUSIC V; Risset also composes *Computer Suite from Little Boy*, utilising auditory illusions
- Wendy Carlos' *Switched-On Bach* achieves popular success, promoting Robert Moog's modular synthesisers
- Lee Scratch Perry sets up his Upsetter record label – the Jamaican sound system and studio scene is a fertile backdrop for the development of dub and the remix
- 1969 Max Mathews builds the GROOVE system to connect a computer to an analogue synthesiser
- First performance of Lejaren Hiller and John Cage's *HPSCHD*, for massed audiovisual forces
- Luc Ferrari's *music promenade* manipulated field recording
- 1970 Pierre Boulez founds the Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique (IRCAM)
- 1970–2 François Bayle's *L'expérience acoustique*
- 1971 Richard Teitelbaum's piece *Alpha Bean Lima Brain* involves the transmission of brain waves by telephone to control jumping beans
- Wendy Carlos creates the electronically instrumental score for *A Clockwork Orange* by Stanley Kubrick
- Hiller and Ruiz develop the first computer simulations by physical models, of instrumental sounds
- John Chowning describes techniques for the computer simulation of moving sound sources that are based on the Doppler effect as well as reverberation effects
- Tonto's Expanding Head Band release the psychedelic and progressive *Zero Time*, composed with the expanded Series III Moog synthesiser
- 1972 Salvatore Martirano builds the *SalMar Construction*, a realtime generative electronic music instrument.
- F. Richard Moore, Gareth Loy, and others at the Computer Audio Research Laboratory (CARL) at University of California at San Diego develop and distribute an open-source, portable system for signal processing and music synthesis, called the CARL System, modelled after UNIX
- Eduard Artemiev produces the electronic score for *Solaris* by Andrei Tarkovsky
- 1973 *Pong* by Atari becomes a mass gaming phenomenon
- The Composers inside Electronics collective is formed
- DJ Kool Herc is experimenting with turntable mixing at parties in the Bronx

*xxi Chronology*

- 1974 Paul De Marinis builds *Parrot Pleaser*, an automatic music composing circuit intended to be played by a bird  
 Curtis Roads writes a program with MUSIC V implementing granular synthesis  
 François Bayle establishes the Acousmonium loudspeaker orchestra
- 1974–9 Laurie Spiegel develops the *VAMPIRE* (Video And Music Program for Interactive Realtime Exploration/Experimentation) system
- 1975 Michel Waisvisz unleashes the Cracklebox synthesiser  
 John Appleton produces the prototype for the Synclavier
- 1976 Denis Smalley writes *Darkness After Time's Colours*
- 1977 *The League of Automatic Composers* is founded by Jim Horton, John Bischoff and Rich Gold  
 Ben Burt coins the term 'sound designer' to reflect his contribution to the film *Star Wars*  
 Hildegard Westerkamp creates *Lighthouse Park Soundwalk*
- 1978 Atari releases the Atari Video Music audio-visualiser  
 Brian Eno creates the ambient music installation *Music for Airports*  
 Kraftwerk create their *The Man-Machine* album, touring with robotic mannequins  
*Space Invaders* by Toshihiro Nishikado is the first game to have continuous music throughout  
 Trevor Wishart composes *Red Bird: A Political Prisoner's Dream*
- 1979 Merzbow starts his Lowest Music and Arts record label to release his music on cassette
- 1980 Fonction d'onde formantique (*FOF*) sound synthesis (or formant wave function synthesis), is developed at IRCAM by Xavier Rodet, Yves Potard and Jean-Baptiste Barrière
- 1981 The launch of Music TeleVision; MTV appropriates the existing term VJ for their presenters, starting a parallel use of this descriptor, later fully reclaimed by live club visual artists
- 1981–8 Boulez works on *Répons*
- 1982 David Jaffe's *Silicon Valley Breakdown* utilises an extended version of Karplus-Strong synthesis
- 1983 The *Musical Instruments Digital Interface* protocol (MIDI) is established  
 The Yamaha DX7 is released and becomes the first widely accessible digital synthesiser  
 Double D and Steinski win a remix competition with the first of their influential cut and paste *Lessons*
- 1984 Paul Lansky develops *Cmix*, later to become *RTCMix*, an extension for realtime use created by Brad Garton and David Topper  
 Yasunao Tone begins 'wounding' CDs through the application of perforated Scotch tape

xxii *Chronology*

- First attempts at automatic accompaniment systems from Roger Dannenberg and Barry Vercoe presented at the International Computer Music Conference at IRCAM
- The *Wabot-2* score reading and keyboard playing robot is completed, the first of a series of musical robots produced at Waseda University
- Early Chicago House recordings from Jesse Saunders, amongst others
- 1985 Laurie Spiegel develops *Music Mouse*  
 Paul Lansky's *Idle Chatter*  
 Detroit Techno provides one historical strand amongst many of electronic dance music: Juan Atkins had been recording in the duo Cybotron since 1981, and released his first Model 500 tracks in 1985; influences included electronic, disco and funk artists such as Kraftwerk, Giorgio Moroder and Parliament
- 1986 *Csound* is originally authored by Barry Vercoe and colleagues at the MIT Media Labs  
 George E. Lewis begins working on the *Voyager* interactive music system  
 The Akai S900 becomes one of the first (and possibly the most accessible) commercially available sampling modules for mass consumers
- 1987 The Hierarchical Music Scoring Language (HMSL) is authored by Polansky, Rosenboom and Burk
- 1988 Miller Puckette publishes his paper *The Patcher*; at IRCAM he develops this visual patching system into an interactive computer music programming environment called *Max*
- 1989 John Oswald releases the *Plunderphonic* EP and is later forced to 'recant', destroying all remaining copies, by the litigious music industry
- 1990 *Max* (later *Max/MSP*, then later still just *Max* again) is released commercially, becoming available to non-academic musicians  
 Public Enemy's album *Fear of a Black Planet* demonstrates the power of their sampled hip hop production, allied to strong political messages
- 1991 Nic Collins creates the piece *Broken Light* by hardware hacking CD players  
*Common Lisp Music* (or CLM), a sound synthesis language is written by Bill Schottstaedt at Stanford University
- 1992 Reed Ghazala starts publishing articles on 'Circuit Bending' in the journal *Experimental Musical Instruments*
- 1993 Björk's *Debut* is the first example of her many collaborations with electronic dance music producers

xxiii *Chronology*

- 1994 Autechre's *anti-EP* (particularly the third track, 'Flutter') is designed not to repeat in such a way as to confound recent anti-rave legislation
- 1995 The *Synthesis Toolkit* (STK), a collection of building blocks for realtime sound synthesis and physical modelling, for the C++ programming language, is authored by Perry Cook and Gary Scavone
- 1996 James McCartney develops *SuperCollider*, an environment and programming language for realtime audio synthesis  
 Miller Puckette releases *Pure Data*, a freeware program with a similar environment to Max/MSP
- 1997 Coldcut release *Let Us Play*, an extended CD including the live AV sampling demo *Timber*  
 Maurice Methot and Hector LaPlante start streaming algorithmic music live on the internet with *The Algorithmic Stream*  
 Introduction of the *Open Sound Control* (OSC) network music connectivity protocol  
 Ryoji Ikeda releases +/-
- 1998 Atau Tanaka and Kaspar Toeplitz install *Global String*, uniting space with cyberspace  
 The gameboy *Nanoloop* sequencer is created by Oliver Wittchow  
 Chris Watson releases *Outside the circle of fire*
- 2000 Tabletop tangible musical controllers such as *SmallFish* and *Jam-O-Drum* begin to develop; they would be followed by others such as the *reactable* and the *Audiopad*  
 Radiohead's *Kid A* openly assimilates electronica influences
- 2000–3000 Jem Finer's *LongPlayer* installation intends to run for a thousand years
- 2001 Chris Chafe's *Network Harp* uses network latency for sound synthesis
- 2002 *ChuckK*, an audio synthesis programming language, is created by Ge Wang and Perry Cook  
 The *Shazam* mobile phone-based automatic music track recognition service is launched
- 2004 The *Firebirds* installation by Paul de Marinis reignites the use of gas fire loudspeakers  
 The *Vocaloid* singing voice synthesiser software is first released
- 2005 Nintendo and Toshio Iwai release the *Electroplankton* interactive musical video game
- 2006 The *Tomb Raider: Legend* game widely promotes adaptive audio techniques  
 Daft Punk's stage pyramid show is revealed at Coachella
- 2007 The iPhone is released, paving the way to low latency audio processing smartphone applications
- 2009 Björk's *Biophilia* is both interactive app and music release

*xxiv Chronology*

- 2010 The Turner Prize is given to sound artist Susan Philipsz
- 2011 Amon Tobin's ISAM stage show maps audio synchronized graphics onto a large on-stage sculpture  
The *Oramics to Electronica* exhibition opens at London's Science Museum
- 2014 The HTML 5 specification is finalized; an era of realtime web browser audio applications has already begun
- 2016 Daphne Oram's *Still Point* (1949) for double orchestra, pre-recorded sound and electronic processing via microphones is finally premiered, at the *Deep Minimalism* Festival in London