

“Electronic Instrument Petting Zoo”
Proposal for 2011 [m] Festival
Lauren Silberman

Possible Instruments

This is a list of possible music instruments that could be incorporated into the installation. These instruments were selected for historical significance, accessibility, and fun.

Synthesizer (Analog/Digital)	808 Drum Machines
Theremin (also, Optical Theremin)	Tape Delays
Sequencer/Sampler	Reverb Boxes
Kaossilator	Auto tune
Electric String Quartet	Midi guitar/piano
iPads/iPhones with musical apps	Ebows
Effects pedals/controllers (including wii)	Ewis
Several Apple laptops with Garage Band	Keytar
Rock Band video game	
Electronic drum pads as triggers	

Room Set-up

There will be four distinct exhibit areas of the room, which would be associated with each of the four 45 minute performance slots. During non-performance time, audience members could be guided through a rotation of these “stations” or engage based on their interests. An issue of concern here would be sound management during non-performance time – not having so many instruments playing at once that each cannot be heard.

Section One: Main Electronic Instruments

These instruments would be set up in one area of the room and individually monitored by a student volunteer or performer. Audience could get up close and engage with these instruments as well as ask questions. Instruments include synthesizer, theramin(s), sequencer and/or sampler, and kaossilator.

Section Two: Electric String Quartet

In another area of the room, the electric string quartet would be set up and monitored by a student volunteer or performer. Audience could get up close and engage with instruments as well as ask questions. Monitors could help facilitate trying of instruments. This exhibit would be most similar to traditional instrument petting zoos.

Section Three: Playing with Sound

In this section of the room, audience members would be invited to get involved with electronic music. Instruments in this section would include: several Apple laptops with Garage Band open, some basic electric instruments (guitar?) connected to effects pedals, pvc pipes for making own

instruments for amplification, etc. Student volunteers could help audience members play with sampling and sequencing in Garage Band, help audience members experiment with different pedals and controllers, or make their own instruments/resonators attached to traditional mouthpieces (that could then be amplified).

Section Four: Fun!

In this section, the video game Rock Band would be set-up for audience members to play on and experiment with. On a side note, can this program/game be hacked and the instruments used to play our own music?

Performances

Half of each performance time slot will be dedicated to electronic instrument demonstration and performance. Prior to each performance, the performance will give a brief introduction and historical overview of the instrument being performed. Additionally, youtube.com and projectors could be employed to help demonstrate history, alternative uses, commercial applications, etc.

Time	Rm. 178
Theme	<i>Installation: Electronic Instrument Petting Zoo</i>
4:00-4:45	Theremin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional Theremin Piece (TBD) • Commissioned work for Theremin from U.O. composition department • YouTube video: OKGO and the optical theremin • Optical Theremin performance?
4:45-5:30	Electric String Quartet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional piece for String Quartet performed on electric instruments (TBD) • Piece written for electric string quartet (TBD) • YouTube video: Scala, Bellatrix, or Bond Quartets • Pop song performed on electric string quartet (TBD)
5:30-6:15	Other Electronic Instruments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance of piece with kaossilator (TBD) • Performance of piece involving sampling/sequencing (TBD) • Youtube videos: TBD • Performance of piece involving musical apps (TBD)
6:15-7:00	Rock Band Karaoke <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YouTube video: what is Rock Band/making of Rock Band • Throughout the festival, groups of four could sign up to participate in this performance. Each group of four will perform one song for an audience.