



Specials > NOTES TOWARDS A RE-READING OF THE "ROARATORIO"

The *Specials* programs focus on projects by artists and curators who have some kind of connection to the Museum's programming and the MACBA Collection. This program surveys the work and career of John Cage in order to explore and learn more about his special relationship to radio, either as an instrument or as a means of communicating his ideas and transmitting his work.

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NOTES TOWARDS A RE-READING OF THE "ROARATORIO"

John Cage wrote pieces in which radio played a leading role. Not so much for radio as such, but rather for the creative opportunities that the equipment and machines at radio stations offered in terms of generating and manipulating sound. When this machinery was superseded by the new equipment at major sound production and research studios, Cage had no qualms about turning to them to carry out his radio commissions, which were never medium-specific. NOTES TOWARDS A RE-READING OF THE "ROARATORIO" reconstructs and analyses the complex nature of John Cage's relationship with the medium, and does so by turning to Cage's own words.

01. Introduction

Here I am with nothing to say. If one of you wants to go somewhere, go ahead and leave at any time. What we need is silence, but what silence needs is that I go on talking.

What is more suitable for radio, a mosquito which sucks the blood from a hippopotamus, or a mosquito which sucks the blood from a radio announcer? But what does it mean to be suitable for radio? When silence is suitable for radio, does it lose its essence only when it is given a name? And what happens to it if a crazy announcer decides to broadcast it?

From radio to music and from silence to the spoken word, there is no solution of continuity: chance is the only tool that can support a criterion to justify any partition between space and time. There are 10^{23} universes, and any choice holds one of them inside.

02. Playlist

- John Cage "The City Wears a Slouch Hat", in *The Lost Works* (Essential, 1942). For percussion and sound effects
- John Cage "Imaginary Landscape N. 1" (<http://www.medienkunstnetz.de/works/imaginary-landscape-1/audio/1/>, 1939)
- John Cage "Williams Mix. Cage" (<http://www.medienkunstnetz.de/works/williams-mix/>, 1952)
- John Cage "Williams [re]Mix[ed]" (Octo Mixes, Larry Austin, EMF, 1997-2001)
- John Cage "Imaginary Landscape N. 4" (1951)
- John Cage "Imaginary Landscape N 4 per 12 radio (in FM)", 1951
- John Cage "Radio Music" (Nova Musicha n. 1, Cramps Records, 1956)
- John Cage "Sixty-two Mesostics Re Merce Cunningham" (Nova Musicha N.1, Cramps Records, 1971)
- John Cage "Roaratorio. Part I" (Mode, 1979)
- "Interview with Jonathan Cott" (Other Minds Archive, 1963) (background)
- "Empty words", 1974 (background)
- "John Cage in Conversation with Morton Feldman, Radio Happening 1 of 5" (Radio OM, 1966) (background)



[*I've Got a Secret*, 1960]



[*Music Walk, Galerie 22, Düsseldorf, september 1958*
1959, 1958]

03. Related links

<http://www.medienkunstnetz.de/artist/cage/>
<http://www.writing.upenn.edu/~afilreis/88/cage-quotes.html>
<http://www.medienkunstnetz.de/works/williams-mix/>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Cage
<http://www.classicalnotes.net/columns/silence.html>
http://www.cobussen.com/proefschrift/300_john_cage/316_cage_and_silence/cage_and_silence.htm
<http://www.jstor.org/pss/948120>
http://books.google.es/books?id=csPVfC-V9RcC&pg=PA227&lpg=PA227&dq=John+Cage+horspiel&source=bl&ots=f-G7hd-a1Y&sig=5iyLGqHgDblcF3ys1n5Daq6L5v0&hl=en&ei=NipwSsmHMZvMjAfujoyZBQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=6
<http://epc.buffalo.edu/authors/perloff/cyber.html>
<http://www.lichtensteiger.de/stories.html>
<http://www.pacificaradioarchives.org/search/search.php?Q10=john+cage&Q12=>
http://www.moderecords.com/catalog/028_29cage.html
http://www.themodernword.com/joyce/music/cage_roaratorio.html
<http://www.rosewhitemusic.com/cage/texts/slouch.html>
<http://cageblog.blogspot.com/2005/10/city-wears-slouch-hat.html>
http://books.google.es/books?id=PrWg_Va77mEC&pg=PA79&lpg=PA79&dq=Horspielmacher+%22John+Cage%22&source=bl&ots=GwJJjKuaB2&sig=IcKgEolVoeC3MCQORrovQy40IaA&hl=en&ei=qXdxSrbNNOPRjAeP_fyQDA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=3
<http://www.jstor.org/pss/3245686>
http://cageblog.blogspot.com/2005_11_01_archive.html
http://vorlon.case.edu/~zwb2/unrecorded_cage.htm
http://books.google.es/books?id=f90wVa9gM2EC&pg=PA166&lpg=PA166&dq=%22Twelve+Golden+Throats%22&source=bl&ots=wiHPKH-noX&sig=417xQ6MuWX52KmdvScs_bOETHMU&hl=en&ei=24mlSuzfNdCOjAfJhaHcAQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1#v=onepage&q=%22Twelve%20Golden%20Throats%22&f=false

04. Acknowledgments

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