

## Curatorial > VARIATIONS

With this section, RWM continues a line of programmes devoted to exploring the complex map of sound art from different points of view organised in curatorial series.

'Variation' is the formal term for a musical composition based on a previous musical work, and many of those traditional methods (changing the key, meter, rhythm, harmonies or tempi of a piece) are used in much the same manner today by sampling musicians. But the practice of sampling is more than a simple modernization or expansion of the number of options available to those who seek their inspiration in the refinement of previous composition. The history of this music traces nearly as far back as the advent of recording, and its emergence and development mirrors the increasingly self-conscious relationship of society to its experience of music. Starting with the precedents achieved by Charles Ives and John Cage, VARIATIONS will present an overview of the major landmarks in Sampling Music, following examples in 20th century composition, folk art and commercial media through to the meeting of all those threads in the present day.

Curated by Jon Leidecker.

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Jon Leidecker was born in 1970 in Washington D.C. to two physicists. Since 1990 he has performed appropriative collage music under the pseudonym Wobbly, aiming for extended narratives spun from spontaneous yet coherent multi-sample polyphony. Selected recent works are freely available online. <http://detritus.net/wobbly/>

# VARIATIONS #6

## The Library

Sound libraries are collections of sounds explicitly designed or collected for further use, presented as unfinished ingredients. Sounds increasingly detach from their sources and are used by new authors less as references than as simple objects.

### 01. Summary

We encounter the establishment of sound libraries, collections explicitly curated for further use: sound objects presented as authorless, unfinished ingredients. Though some libraries contain newly commissioned generic sounds, specifically designed for maximum flexibility, the most widely used sounds are often sourced from commercial recordings, freed from their original context to propagate across dozens to hundreds of songs. From presets for digital samplers to data CD ROMs to hip-hop battle records, sounds increasingly detach from their sources, used less as references to any original moment, and more as objects in a continuous public domain.

As hip-hop undergoes a conservative retrenchment in the wake of the early 90's sampling lawsuits, a widening variety of composers and groups expand the practice of appropriative audio collage as a formal discipline. The aesthetic of the sound libraries gives rise to recombinant genres like drum and bass, the use of sampling as romanticized representation leads to the first quadruple platinum World Music collage, and we encounter a novelty single that quietly heralds a musical form that would soon become known as the Mash-up.

### 02. Playlist

- 01 Josquin 'Missa Pange Lingua (Credo)', p 1539, performed by The Tallis Scholars (under narration)
- 02 Perotin 'Viderunt Omnes', 1198, performed by The Hilliard Ensemble (under narration)
- 03 Machaut 'Dame, de qui toute ma joie vient', ~1340, performed by Gothic Voices (under narration)
- 04 Gesualdo 'Feria V - In Coena Domini', 1611, performed by The Hilliard Ensemble (under narration)
- 05 Wagner 'Tristan, Prelude to Act I', 1865, performed by Orchestre Philharmonique de Vienna (under narration)
- 06 Verdi 'Celeste Aida', 1871, performed by Enrico Caruso (1911 recording) (under narration)
- 07 Duke Ellington 'Black and Tan Fantasy', 1929 (under narration)
- 08 Bach 'Cello Suite No. 3 In C Major', ~1720, Pablo Casals (1938 recording) (under narration)
- 09 The Shirelles 'Will You Love Me Tomorrow', 1960 (under narration)
- 10 La Monte Young & The Theatre of Eternal Music 'Sunday Morning Blues', ~1965 (under narration)
- 11 Baka Pygmies 'The "Water Drum"', 1975, recorded by Simha Arom (under narration)
- 12 Gede Manik 'Bali Barong 2e Improvisation', 1975 (under narration)
- 13 Carl Stone 'Darul Kabap', 2002 (under narration)
- 14 Public Enemy 'Pollywanacraka / Who Stole The Soul', 1990
- 15 John Oswald 'Plexure: Massive', 1993
- 16 John Oswald 'Plexure: Urge ('97 revision)', 1997 (under narration)
- 17 Ice Cube 'Jackin' for Beats', 1990
- 18 Gang Starr 'Jazz Thing (Movie Mix)', 1990
- 19 Dr. Dre 'Dre Day (And Everybody's Celebratin')', 1992 (under narration)

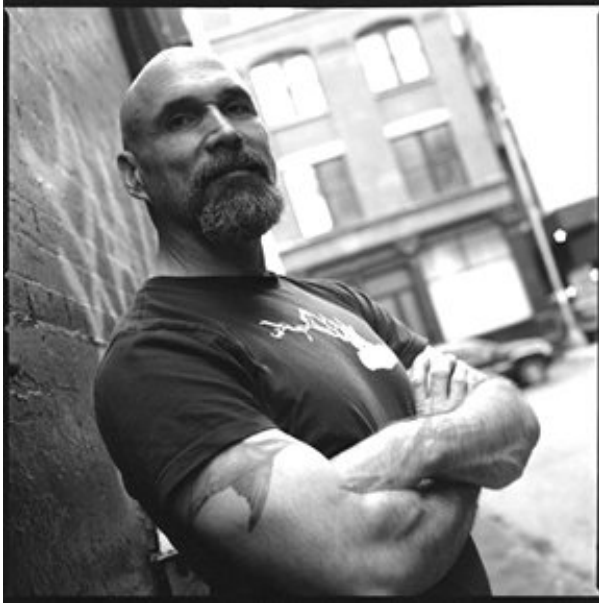


[John Oswald *Plexure*, 1993]



[Carl Stone]

- 20 Funkadelic '(Not Just) Knee Deep', 1979 (under narration)
- 21 MC Hammer 'U Can't Touch This', 1990 (fragment)
- 22 Bob Ostertag & Fred Frith 'Voice of America Part I', 1981
- 23 Keep the Dog 'True Love (Schorndorf)', 1991
- 24 Bob Ostertag 'Sooner or Later', 1991 (under narration)
- 25 Bob Ostertag & The Kronos Quartet 'All the Rage', 1993 (under narration)
- 26 Bob Ostertag 'Say No More', 1993
- 27 Bob Ostertag 'Say No More In Person', 1993
- 28 Carl Stone 'Shing Kee', 1986
- 29 The Tape-beatles 'Flowers for Dead Heroes', 1993 (fragment)
- 30 The Tape-beatles 'Grave Implications', 1993 (under narration)
- 31 The Tape-beatles 'Different Tool / I Can't Do It', 1991
- 32 Meat Beat Manifesto 'God O.D. Part 1', 1989 (under narration)
- 33 Meat Beat Manifesto 'I Got the Fear Part 4', 1989
- 34 Holger Hiller 'Count', 1992 (under narration)
- 35 Holger Hiller 'Sur la Tête', 1991
- 36 Emergency Broadcast Network 'Authorized Bootleg Auto-Entertainment Device', 1991 (under narration)
- 37 Emergency Broadcast Network 'Get Down ver. 2.2', 1995 (under narration)
- 38 Emergency Broadcast Network 'We Will 'Raqu You', 1993
- 39 Big City Orchestra 'Drums', 1994 (under narration)
- 40 Big City Orchestra 'Bulldog', 1994
- 41 Culturecide 'They Aren't the World', 1986
- 42 Steve Fisk 'Topeka Hello', 1981
- 43 Wayne Butane 'Backwash', ~1993
- 44 Sucking Chest Wound 'Mary Dear', 1992
- 45 GUM 'Sporadic Acts of Violence', 1987
- 46 Martin Tétrault (with René Lussier) 'Leurs Personnalités', 1990
- 47 Crawling with Tarts 'Orses Opera', 1993
- 48 Fairlight 'Orch5 Library Sample' (sampled from Stravinsky's 'Firebird' by David Vorhaus)
- 49 Afrika Bambaataa and the Soulsonic Force 'Planet Rock', 1982 (under narration)
- 50 Kate Bush 'The Dreaming', 1982 (under narration)
- 51 Stravinsky 'The Firebird', 1911, performed by Michael Tilson Thomas with the San Francisco Symphony (under narration)
- 52 Jean-Michel Jarre 'Diva', 1984 (fragment)
- 53 Prince 'Bob George', 1988 (fragment)
- 54 African Head Charge 'Some Bizarre', 1986 (fragment)
- 55 Frank Zappa 'Our Bizarre Relationship', 1969 (fragment)
- 56 Pierre Schaeffer 'Étude aux sons animés', 1958 (under narration)
- 57 Meat Beat Manifesto 'Hello Teenage America', 1990 (fragment)
- 58 Junior Walker All Stars 'Shoot Your Shot', 1965 (under narration)
- 59 House of Pain 'Jump Around', 1992 (under narration)
- 60 Cypress Hill 'Insane in the Brain', 1993 (under narration)
- 61 Mel and Tim 'Good Guys Only Win in the Movies', 1969 (fragment)
- 62 Wu-Tang Clan '7th Chamber', 1993 (under narration)
- 63 Genius / GZA 'Swordsman', 1995
- 64 Melvin Bliss 'Synthetic Substitution', 1973 (under narration)
- 65 The Honeydrippers 'Impeach the President', 1973 (under narration)
- 66 Skull Snaps 'It's a New Day', 1973 (under narration)
- 67 The Soul Searchers 'Ashley's Roachclip', 1974 (under narration)
- 68 Kool and the Gang 'NT', 1971 (under narration)
- 69 The Isley Brothers 'Footsteps In The Dark', 1977 (under narration)
- 70 DJ Qbert 'Gag Seal Breaks', 2001
- 71 Psychedelic Skratz Bastards 'Battle Breaks', 1991 (under narration)
- 72 Dirt Style 'Battle Records', ~1990's
- 73 DJ Qbert 'Demolition Pumpkin Squeeze Musik', 1994 (under narration)
- 74 Mix Master Mike 'Musik's Worst Nightmare', 1996
- 75 Simon Harris 'Beats, Breaks and Scratches Volume 4', 1989 (under narration)
- 76 The Winstons 'Amen, Brother', 1969
- 77 N.W.A. 'Straight Outta Compton', 1989 (under narration)
- 78 UK Apachi with Shy FX 'Original Nuttah', 1994 (under narration)
- 79 Remarc 'Drum N Bass Wise (remix)', 1994 (under narration)
- 80 Eko 'Distant Hopes', 1994
- 81 Squarepusher 'Port Rhombus', 1996
- 82 Lesser 'The Anal Retentive Last Stand', 1998



[Bob Ostertag]



[The Tape-beatles]

- 83 Hrvatski 'Cirrus Minor', 1998
- 84 James Brown 'Funky Drummer', 1970 (under narration)
- 85 The Tape-beatles 'Beautiful State', 1991 (under narration)
- 86 The Orb 'Plateau', 1993 (under narration)
- 87 MC Shan 'Beat Biter', 1985 (fragment)
- 88 Grand Wizard Theodore & Kevie Kev Rockwell 'Military Cut', 1983 (under narration)
- 89 Boogie Down Productions '13 and Good (Skit)', 1992
- 90 Baka Pygmies 'The "Water Drum"', 1975, recorded by Simha Arom (under narration)
- 91 Deep Forest 'Hunting', 1992 (under narration)
- 92 Afunakwa 'Rorogwela', 1969, recorded by Hugo Zemp (under narration)
- 93 Deep Forest 'Deep Forest', 1992
- 94 Deep Forest 'Sweet Lullaby', 1992
- 95 Stockhausen 'Telemusik', 1967 (under narration)
- 96 Dunya Yunis 'Abu Zeluf / Music in the World of Islam Volume 1', 1976 (under narration)
- 97 Baka Pygmies 'The "Water Drum"', 1975, recorded by Simha Arom (under narration)
- 98 Afunakwa 'Rorogwela', 1969, recorded by Hugo Zemp (under narration)
- 99 David Toop & Max Eastley 'City of Night', 1994
- 100 The Evolution Control Committee 'How Low Can You Go!', 1994 (under narration)
- 101 The Evolution Control Committee 'Rebel without a Pause (Whipped Cream Mix)', 1994

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<http://bobostertag.com/index.php>

Carl Stone  
<http://www.sukothai.com/v.2/CSMusic.html>

The Tape-beatles  
<http://pwp.detritus.net/>  
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<http://scw.gts.org/>

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Simon Harris' 'Beats, Breaks & Scratches'  
<http://www.discogs.com/Simon-Harris-Beats-Breaks-Scratches-Volume-4/release/102847>

Battle Records  
<http://www.discogs.com/Psychedelic-Skratch-Bastards-Battle-Breaks/release/70630?ev=rr>  
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Drum and bass: 'Amen Break'  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amen\\_break](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amen_break)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_drum\\_and\\_bass](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_drum_and_bass)

Nate Harrison 'Can I Get An Amen?'  
[http://nkhstudio.com/pages/popup\\_amen.html](http://nkhstudio.com/pages/popup_amen.html)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SaFTm2bcac>

Stephen Feld 'A Sweet Lullaby for World Music'  
[http://web.archive.org/web/20070830061933/http://www.deepforestmusic.com/dypress\\_00-00-00sweetlullabyforworld.htm](http://web.archive.org/web/20070830061933/http://www.deepforestmusic.com/dypress_00-00-00sweetlullabyforworld.htm)



[*Ultimate Breaks and Beats, Volume One*, 1986]



[Emergency Broadcast Network]

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<http://www.musicofsound.co.nz/blog/tracing-a-sample-to-its-source>

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[Evolution Control Committee]



[Deep Forest video]