
CIRMMT Distinguished Lecture Series in the Science and Technology of Music

CIR Centre for Interdisciplinary Research
MMT in Music Media and Technology



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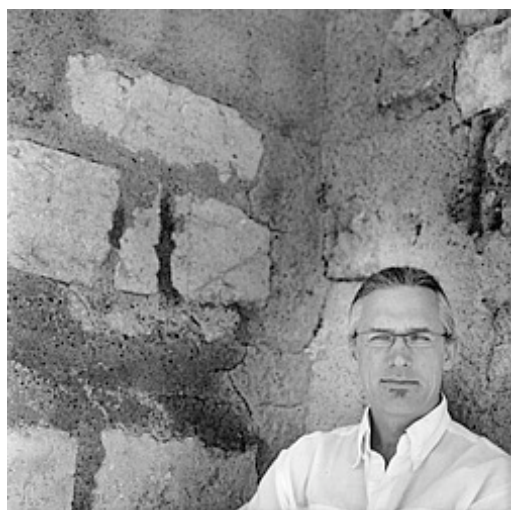
Title: Timbre spatialization, or the medium is the space

Speaker: Robert Normandeau, Faculté de Musique,
Université de Montréal

Date: Thursday, November 22, 2007

Time: 4:30 p.m. (Lecture), 6:00 p.m. (Concert)

Location: New Music Building, 527 Sherbrooke Street West
Multi-Media Room (-2 level, MMR)



What sets the electroacoustic medium apart is its virtuality. Sound and source are not fused together. A certain timbre heard from a loudspeaker is completely independent of that speaker. And this speaker can broadcast the entire range of available timbres, as can all the other speakers in the room. As well as all the points situated between all the speakers. But what makes the experience of space in electroacoustic music even more unique is the possibility of fragmenting the spectrum in space, and in this way, electroacoustic music distinguishes itself clearly from instrumental music. Where we had a violin located in a certain place, we also had the entire timbre of the violin. Whereas

now, it is possible to distribute the timbre of a complex sound by apportioning it among a group of available virtual points. This is what I call timbral spatialization: the spectrum exists as a whole only virtually, in the concert space.

The lecture will be immediately followed at 6 p.m. by a *live@CIRMMT* concert presenting two of Robert Normandeau's compositions:

Éden (2003)

StrinGDberg (2001-03)