

ACTION CALENDAR

Friday 2

- EVENTS**
BOOK SALE annual sale at the Centennial Library, Sir W. Churchill Sq. 1-2pm, 6-9pm, free
OKTOBERFEST lots of food & beer, Convention Ctr 7pm, \$11. tix: 421-9797.
CELEBRITY HOCKEY Oilers & local celebs in two 15min periods, Mayfield Inn 16615 109av 6:30pm, free
NORTH AMERICAN & EUROPEAN folk music ProCoro, All St's Anglican Cathedral 10039 103st 8pm.
MASTERCLASS SERIES piano recital by John Wustman, CON Hall 7pm.
EXHIBITS
STRUCTURED PARADISE: A National Park Experience, photographic documentation of Banff, Ring House Gallery UofA, 11am-5pm free.
4 SEASONS IN COLOR photo exhibit, Custom Slide Printing 207 12306 Jasper, 10am-5pm free.
LOOKING THROUGH THE GLASS 5 women photographers, Latitude 53 Gallery 10920 88av, 10am-6pm free.
SOMETHING DIFFERENT Calgary art, symbol & style, Edmonton Art Gallery Sir W. Churchill Sq, 10:30-5pm, \$1/\$2.
FILM
MONTY PYTHON & The Holy Grail Princess 9pm.
LOCAL HEROES Films & Symposia, films and their makers, Citadel 9828 101A av, 426-4811, per day \$9.

Saturday 3

- EVENTS**
BOOK SALE Centennial Library annual sale, Sir W, Churchill Sq. 1-2pm, 6-9pm, free.
OKTOBERFEST lots of food & beer, Convention Ctr 9797 Jasper 7pm, \$11 tix: 421-9797.
KLONDIKE WRESTLING Northlands Agri-com 8pm, \$8-10.
MASTER CLASS SERIES piano recital by John Wustman, FINE ARTS 129 1pm.
CHARLIE PRIDE Jubilee Auditorium, 9:45pm \$21.
SIELIES SCOTTISH HARP DUO South-Side Folk Club, Orange Hall (behind the Strathcona bus barns) 7:30-11:30pm, \$10.
EXHIBITS
4 SEASONS IN COLOR photo exhibit, Custom Slide Printing 207 12306 Jasper, 10am-5pm free.
LOOKING THROUGH THE GLASS 5 women photographers, Latitude 53 Gallery 10920 88av, 10am-6pm free.
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FILM
BRAZIL Directed by Monty Python's Terry Gilliam, this is not really a funny movie, except for Robert DeNiro. Princess 9pm.

Sunday 4

- EVENTS**
FAMILY FUN SUNDAY campus rec, But-terdome & West Pool, 1:30-4pm, 432-2555.
MUSIC FROM VENICE Vivaldi, Handel, Alberta Baroque Ensemble, R. Wesley United Church 10209 123st 3pm. \$5.
EXHIBITS
STRUCTURED PARADISE: A National Park Experience, photographic documentation of Banff, Ring House Gallery UofA, 11am-5pm free.
4 SEASONS IN COLOR photo exhibit, Custom Slide Printing 207 12306 Jasper, 10am-5pm free.
LOOKING THROUGH THE GLASS 5 women photographers, Latitude 53 Gallery 10920 88av, 10am-6pm free.
SOMETHING DIFFERENT Calgary art, symbol & style, Edmonton Art Gallery Sir W. Churchill Sq, 10:30-5pm, \$1/\$2.
FILM
MACBETH Princess 2pm.
LA CAGE AUX FOLLES Princess 9:30pm.

Making Waves

by Dragos Ruiu

Electronic music? Who needs to listen to that crap. Give me a real person. I don't want to hear a machine, I want to hear an artist...

We all know someone like that don't we. Why is it that some people think less of a musician who doesn't close his/her mind to new technological advances than of a staunch purist who insists on using only traditional analog equipment?

It is a variant of technophobia. These fans and musicians rank among those who refuse to use automated tellers. (Don't laugh, I know several people who refuse to use them!) This fear of the new is more common than you think. Mostly it's just ignorance: people hear that computers and similar machines are threatening the jobs of people, and they automatically believe it.

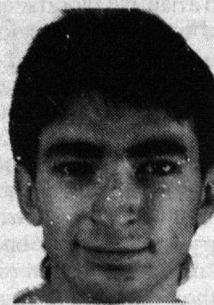
In music, like the rest of the world, this is true. Most often those who take a dim view of electronic music have outdated ideas about just what electronic music is.

The chief myth surrounding electronic music is that the new equipment is replacing the artistic content. That is very wrong: instead of replacing the artist all the equipment does is help him — removes the drudge work, much like a word processor and a spelling checker helps a writer.

The best advances in music have come about because of a thing called MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface). MIDI is a standardized way for instruments, synthesizers and computers to talk to each other. It means that you can connect equipment from various manufacturers and they will all talk to each other.

A musician will hit a key on a MIDI keyboard. The keyboard will pass information about what note the musician hit, how hard, how fast, and how long to other MIDI devices. Among the other devices could be a computer.

The computer will take the information from the keyboard and get a sequence of



notes that the musician has programmed in to be played when he hits that note. The computer will then pass this sequence to one or more synthesizers connected over MIDI. Or the computer could take this note as a timing trigger and play a whole passage of the song.

The catch is that it still takes a musician to program this sequence in.

Your instrument can sound like a Stradavarius even though you only paid several hundred dollars

This is exactly what Chris DeBerg did on his last tour. He wanted his stage show to sound more like his studio work. He carted a huge MIDI setup around with him. The musicians in his group still played their instruments, providing the timing and note information to the MIDI, but the sounds that came from them were specially programmed in sequences to make the live show sound like the Chris DeBerg his audience heard on records.

You would be surprised at how realistic modern synthesizers can be. You can have a whole orchestra at your command with a keyboard, a Macintosh and a single synthesizer. Electronic music doesn't have to sound like Switched On Bach.

And if a synthesizer can't reproduce the

instrument or you can't figure out how to make that sound, you can always sample the sound digitally. Your instrument can sound like a Stradavarius even though you only paid several hundred dollars. Recording the sound much like a CD player, samplers can then play that sound back when you hit a key, drum pad or strum a guitar.

There is also great money to be made in the custom sound field. There are people with expensive multi-million dollar studios who do nothing but work on sound effects.

Sounds are sampled; then they can be altered, and edited. There are many secrets to this trade, and a good sound designer can get very rich. One common technique is called thickening. To thicken a sound, it is played back over itself several times, each time a few thousandths of a second later. That's how the neat reverberating sounds in some of the Star Trek movies were made. Common recordings of things like cymbals and gongs were played back over themselves thousands of times.

You might not know it, but you probably hear thickened sounds on TV all the time in explosions. Explosions sound really wimpy when they are recorded by most microphones; little more than glorified pops. The solution to that problem is to thicken them. That way a real roaring boom comes out of your TV speaker.

Sounds can be copyrighted just like books and movies. Although I'm not sure whether this is applicable in Canada; in the U.S., all you have to do is file a tape of the sound with the patent office. You may have heard of the dispute over Jan Hammer's Miami Vice theme. There was a lawsuit brought to court about just who owned the sounds used in it. No news about the verdict.

So before you scoff at electronic music, find out about it. It's a very complicated, complex field and it's getting bigger every day. Pretty soon the people who play normal instruments will have to join those who do their accounting on printing calculators...

C J S R Playlist

LONG PLAY (LP)

- 1 VARIOUS ARTISTS It Came From Canada III, OG Music/CC
- 2 G.B.H. *Balancing on a Shadow*, Criminal/CC
- 3 Fools Crow *Balancing on a Shadow*, Criminal/CC
- 4 R.E.M. *Documant*, IRS/MCA
- 5 Peter DeHavilland *Bois de Boulogne*, Venture/Virgin/A&M/CC
- 6 Deja Voodoo *The Worst of Deja Voodoo*, OG Music/CC
- 7 Tom Waits *Frank's Wild Years*, Island/Mca
- 8 Lester Bowie/*Brass Fantasy Twilight Dreams*, Venture/Virgin/A&M
- 9 The Washington Squares *The Washington Squares*, Mercury/Polygram
- 10 Amin Bhatia *The Interstellar Suite*, Cinema/Capitol-EMI/CC

S I N G L E S

- 1 Guerilla Warfare *Self-titled Demo*, Independent/CC
- 2 Love's Laughter *Self-titled Demo*, Independent/CC
- 3 The Membranes *Long Live Traditional Rock Homestead/Dutch East India*
- 4 Skinny Puppy *Addiction (remix)*, Nettwerk/Capitol-EMI
- 5 Great Western Orchestra *Your Image of Me*, Independent/CC
- 6 Figure Life Out *Figure Life Out*, Flotation/ILS/US
- 7 69 Tribe *Bikers*, Feralette/US
- 8 Bongwater *Breaking No New Ground*, Shimmy Disc/Pollution Control
- 9 Ear Candy *Self Defense*, Independent/CC
- 10 Siouxsie & the Banshees *Song From The Edge of the World*, Polygram

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