

THE ELECTROACOUSTIC BARN DANCE

Paper I
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Department of Music
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Format Breaking

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Abstract

I use MP3 compression to develop musical material and explore the potential of this format as an aesthetic object. I first compare and contrast this project to the work of previous "glitch" artists. Then, I experiment with extreme MP3 compression at very low bit rates and use the resultant artifacts as material for musical studies. After discussing these results, I develop techniques to extract sonic material usually lost in MP3 compression. Future technical and aesthetic directions are suggested at the end.

Ryan Maguire writes/listens for/to computers/people. He holds degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music and Dartmouth College and is beginning his doctorate in Composition and Computer Technologies at the University of Virginia in the fall.