The 2014 Electroacoustic Barn Dance

Paper II
University of Mary Washington
Department of Music
213 Pollard Hall
November 14, 2014
7:30pm

Rewired: Digital Solutions for the Future Viability of Interactive Music

presented by Shane Hoose

Abstract:
Technological progress has been a double-edged sword for interactive electroacoustic compositions, and the rapid progression of computer technology has hastened the turnover rate of hardware and software devices. During the past thirty years, there has been a silent transition from analog to digital circuitry. Pioneering interactive compositions such as John Cage's Imaginary Landscape, Alvin Lucier's North American Time Capsule, Karlheinz Stockhausen's Mikrophonie I, and Robert Ashly's Wolfman are often recognized in electroacoustic circles as masterpieces; however, these works receive only scattered performances today. The major problem is that as new works have been created, the future sustainability of older works has been jeopardized due to disappearing technology. These older works are by no means musically inferior; however, outdated technology has created a seemingly insurmountable obstacle for their future assimilation. The paradox is that the same technology that has jeopardized the future of these works may also provide the most viable method of preserving them. Digital realization, the process of performing or recreating a work using digital technology, offers a compelling new method of performance for works that are facing the problem of technological obsolescence. Various types of documents, data, and records are rapidly being transferred to the digital domain, even if they were not originally created in the digital realm. Since preserving interactive electroacoustic works means preserving the ability to perform them, the algorithmic nature of computers makes them an especially suitable option for future realizations.

Shane Hoose is active as a recording engineer, composer, and percussionist. He holds degrees in music from the University of Iowa (Ph.D.), Bowling Green State University

(MM) and Ball State University (BM). As a composer, he has won awards, and his compositions have been performed across the United States and in Canada and South Korea. As an engineer he has recorded everything from rock, jazz, and hip-hop to classical music. His current research focuses upon binaural recording techniques. Shane serves as Assistant Professor of Music Industry/Recording Arts at Eastern Kentucky University.