UCLA

Contemporary Music Score Collection

Title

Just Pain: Zine #1

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based on the premiere January 26, 2024. 7-8:30p

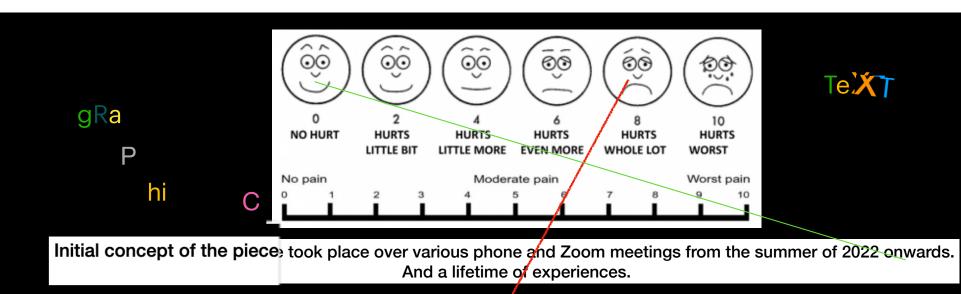
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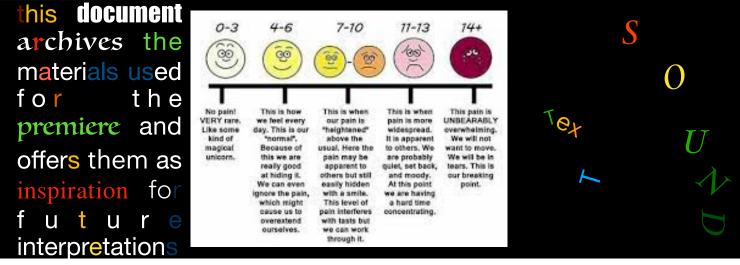
by

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music acknowledges the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (the Los Angeles basin and So. Channel Islands). As a land grant institution, we pay our respects to the Honuukvetam (Ancestors), 'Ahiihirom (Elders) and 'Eyoohiinkem (our relatives/relations) past, present and emerging.



Initial development of the feedback meta instrument took place during a residency at Millay Arts.



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JUST PAIN (2024)

Live electronic performance and sound installation Live electronic performance and sound installation



Program Note Program Note

The performance takes an interactive process score for instruments and live electronics that performence takes an interactive process score for instruments and live electronics that uses a wild feedback and other interactive elements as sonic metaphors and services and other interactive elements as sonic metaphors and services and other interactive elements as sonic metaphors and services and other interactive elements as sonic metaphors and services and s

The project, which can be presented through different collaborations is designed around. The project, which can be presented through different collaborations, is designed around goals of expressive inclusivity, to invite the physical and sonic participation of sound-goals of expressive inclusivity, to invite the physical and sonic participation of sound-makers of different backgrounds and creative cultures.

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Description

Just Pain is an interactive process piece developed with Jessica Schwartz (UCLA in Just Pain is an interactive process piece developed with Jessica Schwartz (UCLA in Just Pain is an interactive process piece developed with Jessica Schwartz (UCLA in Just Pain is an interactive process piece developed in Just Pain In

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JUST PAIN (2024) Live electronic performance and sound installation



....contesting efficiency-driven economies that operationalize the categorical individuation of pain for profit and in appeals to justice, JUST PAIN remixes acute and chronic intensities in a vibrationally amplified process community , creating an interactive feedback experience that challenges the 'treatment' of pain as a promise of equity (aka analgesic error as remedial logic.)....

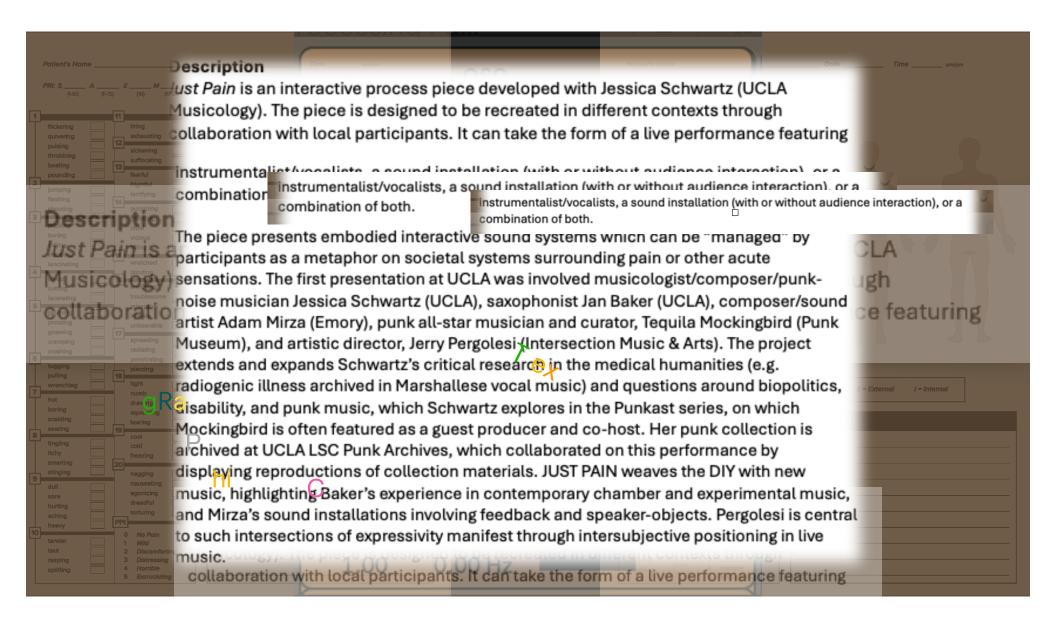
The performance takes an interactive process score for instruments and live electronics that uses audio feedback and other interactive elements as sonic metaphors and experiential augmentations for the various modes of pain iterability and constructions of pain mitigation, management, and medicalization (from pathologizing to normalization to instrumentation).

The project, which can be presented through different collaborations, is designed around goals of expressive inclusivity, to invite the physical and sonic participation of soundmakers of different backgrounds and creative cultures.

Description

Just Paim is an interactive opposes spice developed at this less is a Schwaftle LAC LA Musicology). The pieces side is need to be be acceded different attents the digburgh collaboration with local panicipals; if translate the form of a five performance featuring ing

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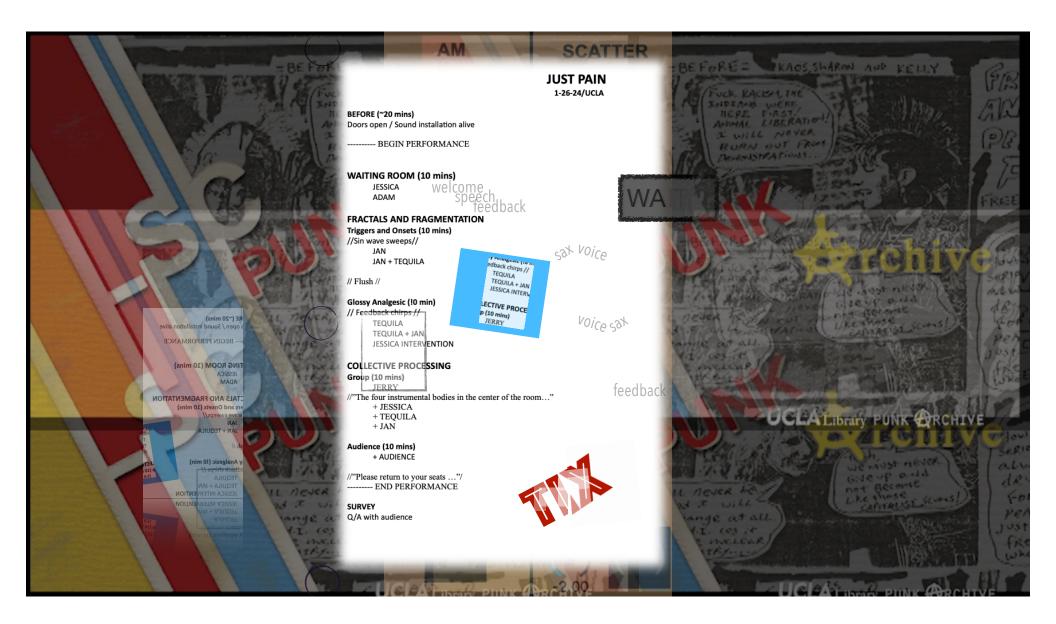
The sound system for the UCLA version incorporates live performance and processes resonances from four instrumental bodies to create a feedback network. Referencing punk processing of pain, the instruments used were pieces of an old drum set of a local punk band. These are laid out like bodies in an operating room. Contact mics and transducer exciters were placed on each resonant body. Signals can be routed to create feedback on a single body or between two or more of the instruments creating the "meta" instrument. In such cases the instrument can be "played" by multiple people in a collective attempt to process feedback. Audio interventions occur manually by moving the contact mics around probing different resonances (like medical diagnostics), and electronically, through software processing inserted into the feedback loops. Set next to each instrument were four small midi controllers, which give the operators some direct control to signal processing (filtering, distortion, and modulation). In addition to the feedback meta instrument, four other drums are placed as ambient "surround" speakers around the audience.

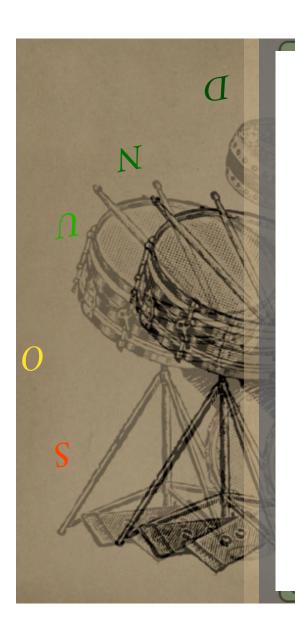
The software performance patch is overseen by the "Sys Admin" (i.e. live sound engineer / laptop artist). The Max patch allows the Sys Admin to change processing and routing scenes and trigger pre-recorded samples.

As a live performance piece, other instrumentalists and vocalists present as "Patients" and improvise in different scenes following concepts developed by the ensemble, as in the example form chart from the 2024 performance at UCLA (below). Microphones allow amplified sound to enter the feedback meta instrument. Thematically, the form follows an abstract narrative of a visit to a medical institution. A "Medical Executive" introduces the piece, the spoken text distorted by audio processing. A "Triage

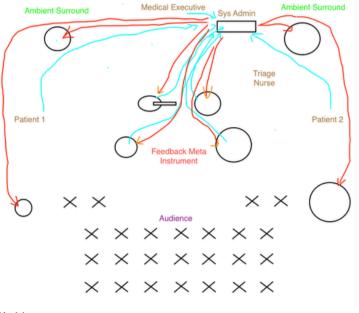
Nurse" moves around the feedback instruments, examining and manipulating the sound. In the conclusion, the audience is invited on stage to experiment with the instruments.







Stage Plot and Routing for UCLA Performance



Musicians

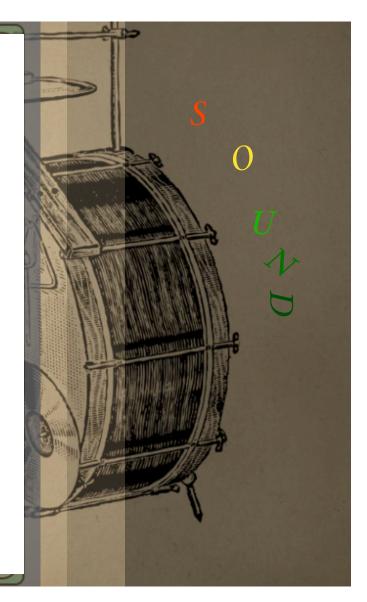
- Jessica Schwartz (guitar and voice) // Medical Executive
- Jan Berry Baker (saxophone) // Patient 1
- Tequila Mockingbird (voice) // Patient 2
- Jerry Pergolesi (percussion) // Triage Nurse
- Adam Mirza (laptop electronics) // Sys Admin

Feedback Meta Instrument: Kick drum, 2 toms, acoustic guitar Ambient Surround Instruments: Kic drum, 3 toms

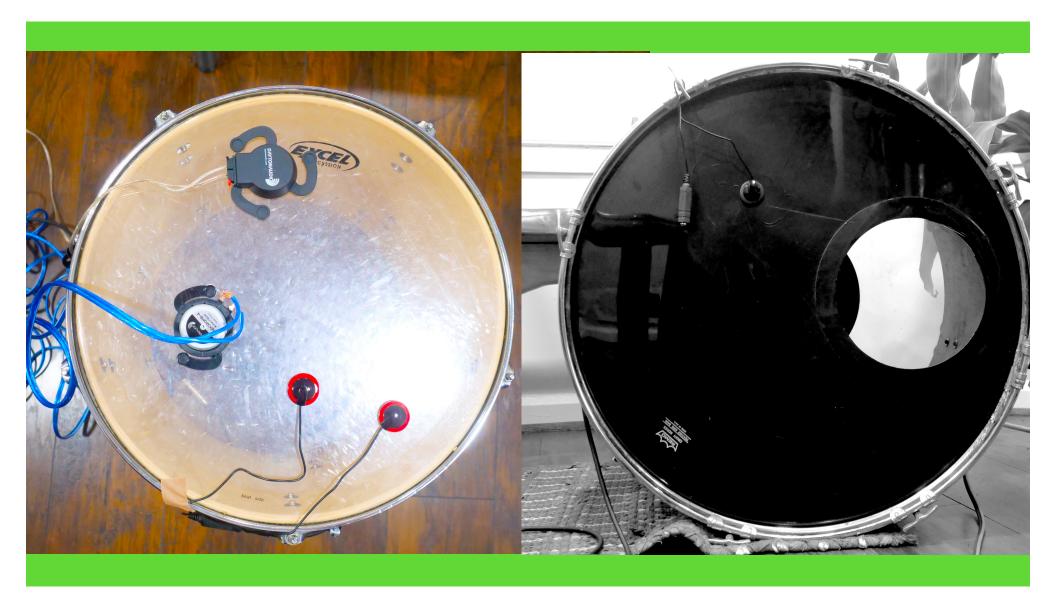
Light blue lines = input mic bring audio to laptop for digital processing.

Red lines = audio signal sending out from laptop to resonant bodies.

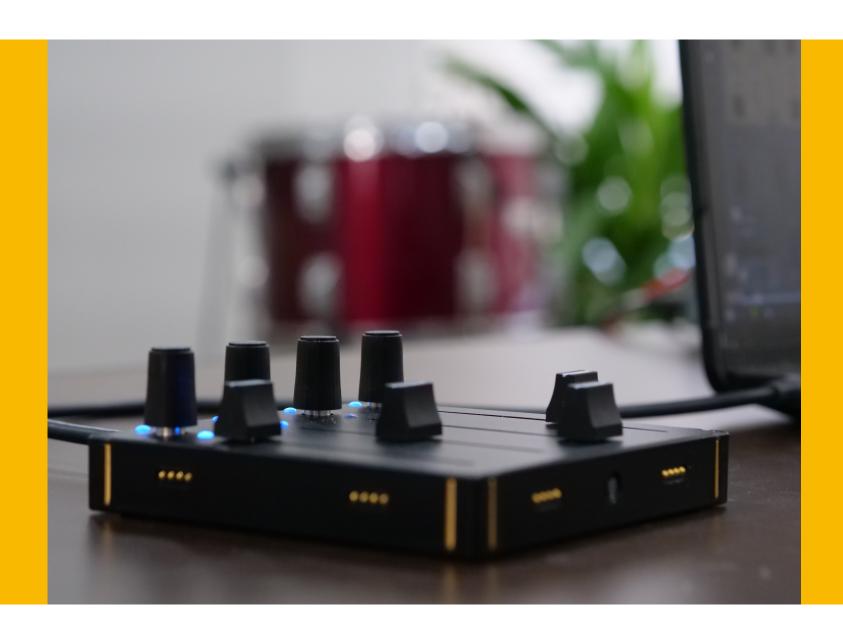
Feedback loops are created in software by connecting blue and red pathways.





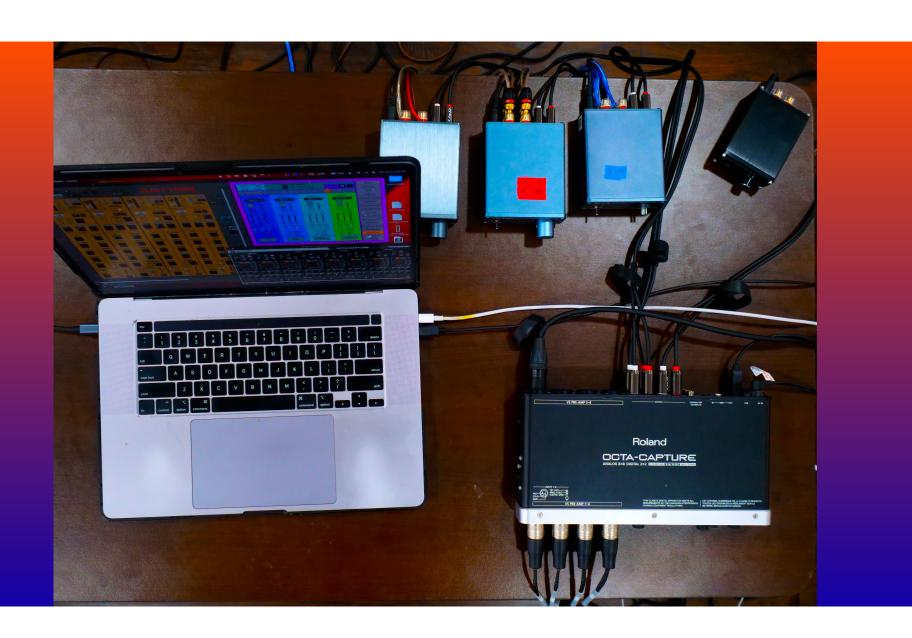
















Max Patch Design and Overview Feedback Vieta

SCENE 1 MATTER FROM 15 MATTER FROM 15 MATTER FROM 15 PALSE FROM 15 MATTER FROM 15 PALSE FROM 15 MATTER FROM 15 PALSE FROM 15 PAL

The live processing software patch built in Max controls of the routing and live processing used in the piece. Audio FX are provided to process the input signals from the feedback meta instrument and the live musicians. Input signals can be routed to different outputs. Global feedback levels are set by an output limiter. Pre-recorded audio files can be triggered and played back. Different routing and processing configurations are saved as "Scenes."

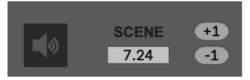
The patch has has five main areas. At the top (circled in red), changes can be made to preset scenes #s. Each preset (1-40, for the UCLA performance), changes routing and processing in the feedback meta instrument. There is space here to add notes specific to the performance.

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The Max patch has five main areas. At the top (circled in red), changes can be made to preset scenes #s. Each preset (1-40, for the UCLA performance), changes routing and processing in the feedback meta instrument. There is space here to add notes specific to the performance.



The large square made up of four columns in separate colors provides audio channel strips for each of the four instruments. The input stage (circled in black) configures input channel routing assignments into the channel; for example, the number "4" in the upper left corner means that Channel 1 will receive mic input from instrument 4, a neighbor. Also included is an option for "self-feed"—a parallel routing input option to bring Instrument 1 mic into Channel 1. These input channel assignments can be reassigned (through a control field below this image), allowing creation of, for instance, double duet processing, or trio + solo processing, etc. The MIDI controller at each instrument is selected here ("from Max 1").



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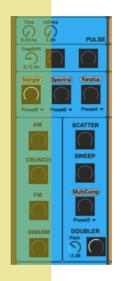
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The main body of each channel strip (circled in dark green) provides processing FX. Signal path proceeds top to bottom, and left to right. The patch incorporates many different processing effects, including delay offset, requency shifting, highspeed amplitude compression/distortion, spectral compression, modulation, chorusing, autofilter, and a pitch delay in the provided shifter.

The output stage (circled above in blue) rovides low pass filter (needed to tame the high frequencies that can build up), fader, and boost to the internal limiter to the channel. General dynamic level in the feedback network is controlled by the Global Limiter, in the master output stage at the right of the patch. This "Limit" dial supplements this global limit value for the individual channel and usually provides the best way to achieve balance.





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'AIN transits intensities in a vibrationally

On the right side of the patch (circled above in green) are the live mic inputs and processing FX, and the master output stage. The live input stage provides processing options as well as the ability to assign the output to either "Install" (the feedback meta instrument) or "ambient" (the surround drums).

The master output stage includes global limiter (sets overall levels of the feedback meta instrument). There are four faders:

- feedback meta instrument

- quad fixed audio files (selected and triggered) above the fader). These are routed to the 4 ambient surround drums.

- Live amplification/processing sent into the feedback meta instrument
- Live amplification sent to 4 supplemental surround drums



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FORM

Doors open / Sound installation

----- BEGIN PERFORMANCE

WAITING ROOM (10 mins) JESSICA ADAM

FRACTALS AND FRAGMENTATION Triggers and Onsets (10 mins)

> JAN JAN + TEQUILA

> > // Flush //

Glossy Analgesic (!0 min)

TEQUILA TEQUILA + JAN JESSICA INTERVENTION

COLLECTIVE PROCESSING
Group (10 mins)
JERRY

//"The four instrumental bodies in the center of the room..."

+ JESSICA + TEQUILA

+ JAN

Audience (10 mins) + AUDIENCE

//"Please return to your seats ..."/

Set List

Set List Set List

Set List

Set List

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TRIGGERS AND ONSETS

Triggers and Onsets is the second section in *Just Pain*, initiated by a sound (and ideally light) cue in the installation.

The section is led by the solo saxophonist who initiates (and reacts to) a sequence of gestural fragments. The saxophonists the section is led by the solo saxophonist who initiates (and reacts to) a sequence of gestural fragments. The saxophonist is the section in the section of the section is led by the solo saxophonist who initiates (and reacts to) a sequence of gestural fragments.

Audio Processing on the live saxophone part creates distorted echoes that reflect through the sound installation, creating another layer to which the saxophonist responds. Other musicians will also selectively echo or spin off from this material, with the vocalist gradually taking, over the lead in the next section.

Duration is around 5-7 minutes.

The score presents a series of gestural fragments that are taken as starting points for improvisatory exploration by the saxophonist. Thematically, the saxophonist manifests various chronic pain trigger onsets and develops them through reactive and transformative patterning, as a double play of self-surprise and attempts at control. Developmental examples for each fragment are provided, which can be used as a starting point for improvisation.

General guidelines for improvisation:

- Focus closely on each cell/material.
- Repeat each fragment, listening to how it feels and reacts in the space/installation.
- Introduce variations with each repetition, typically to one feature/parameter at a time (i.e. articulation, dynamic shaping, pitch, tone, or adding an ornamentation/trill, etc).
- Take space between fragments as necessary
- Move on to the next

Other processes should be included:

- Interrupt (sudden interpositions of unrelated material, chosen ad lib by performer, or taken from other sections in the part, or as reactions/imitations to sounds heard i.e. from the installation, the audience, environment, other musicians)
- Echo (shadow repetitions of material just played or heard)
- Refract (at any point, the improvisation can be "bent" and move into a new direction)

ransits intensities in a vibrationally endicably light) cue and ideally light) cue and idea

SUB-SECTION THEMATICS

Anticipation 1 and 2

- Onset as the sense of impending onset. Sharp searing lines. Internal dulling response.

Flash Zag

Brain flares, sun flashes, energy bursts. Frenetically dislocated zigzag fragments.
 Attempts to control.

Flash Points

Sporadic pointillistic after image-dots. Becoming a texture field.

Flash Vortext

- Uneasy, growing instability.

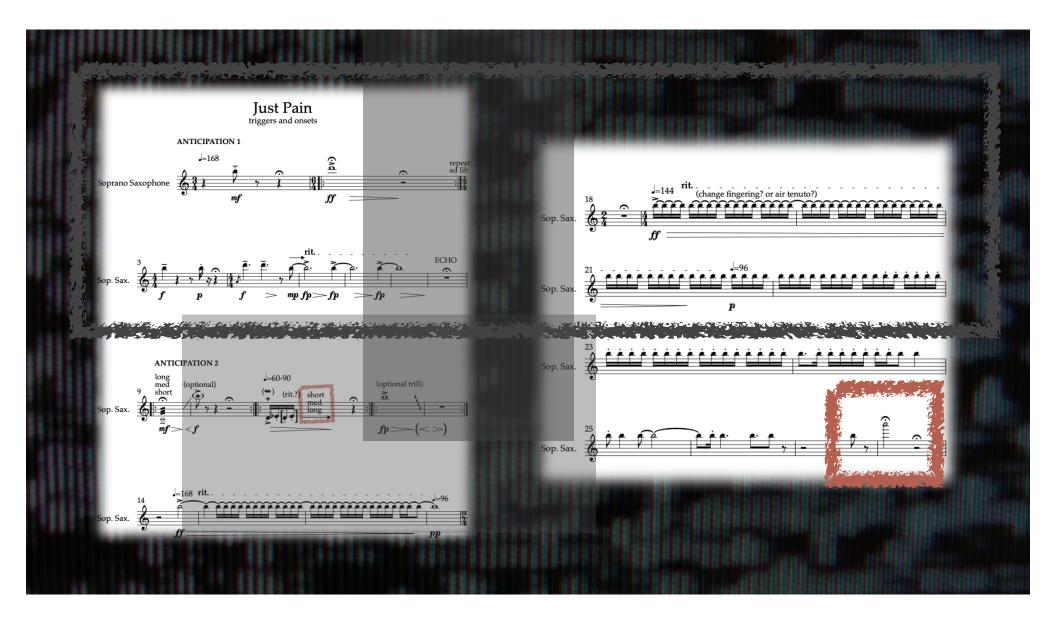
Breath (Disturbed)

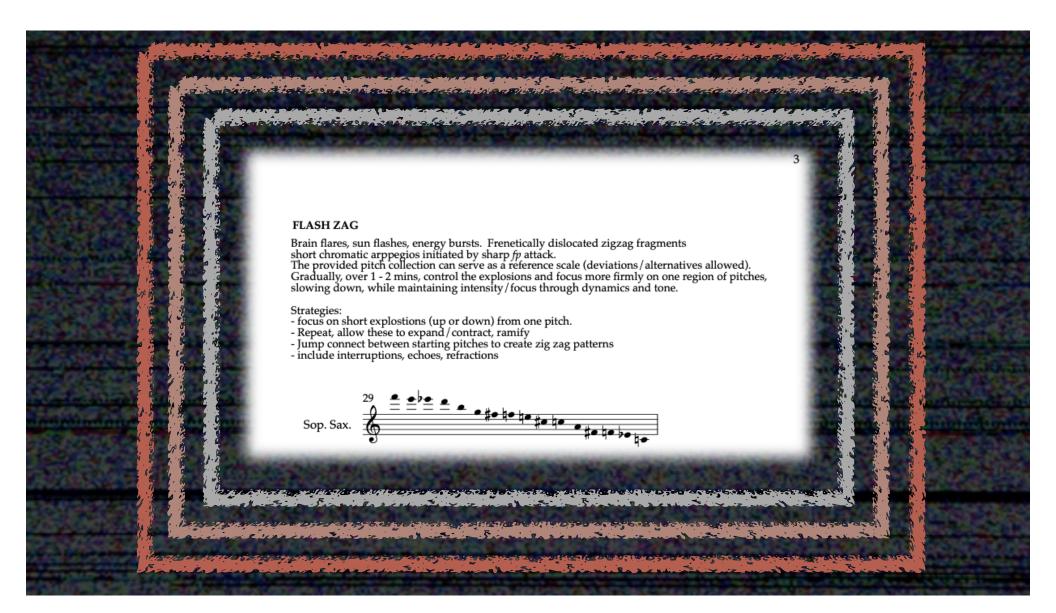
- Shaken reset.

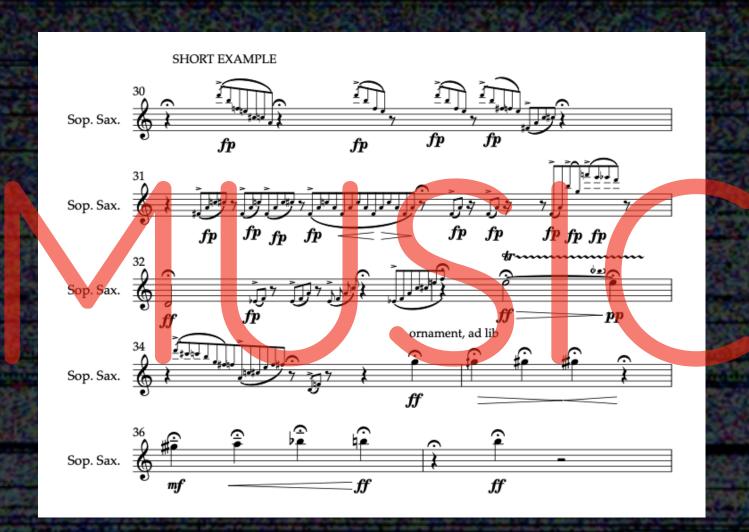
After Shock 1 and 2, Tapping (Diagnosing)

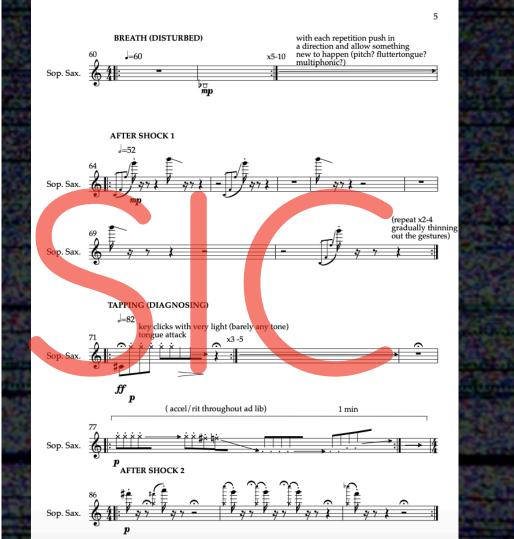
- Looking around. Aware. Vigilant.

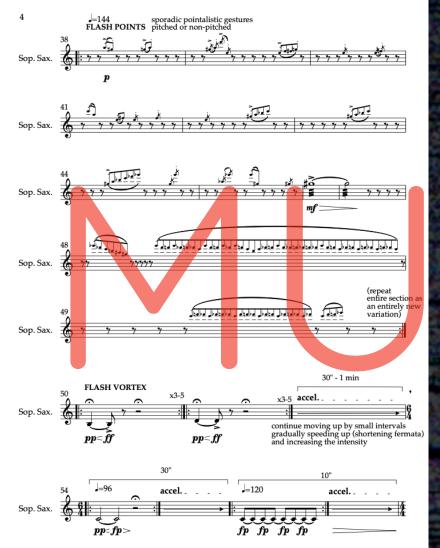
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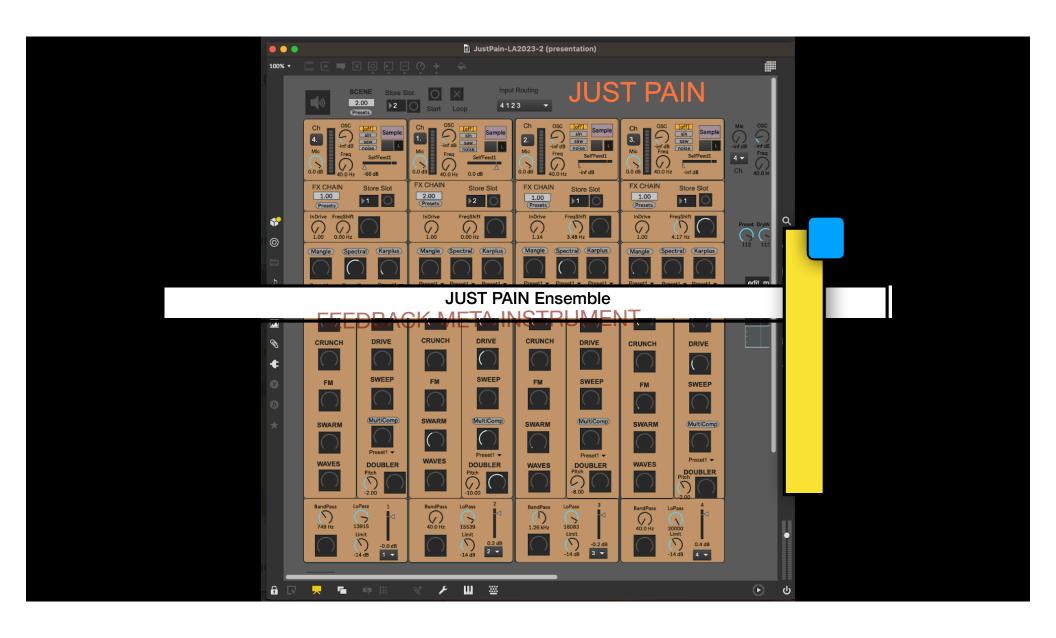


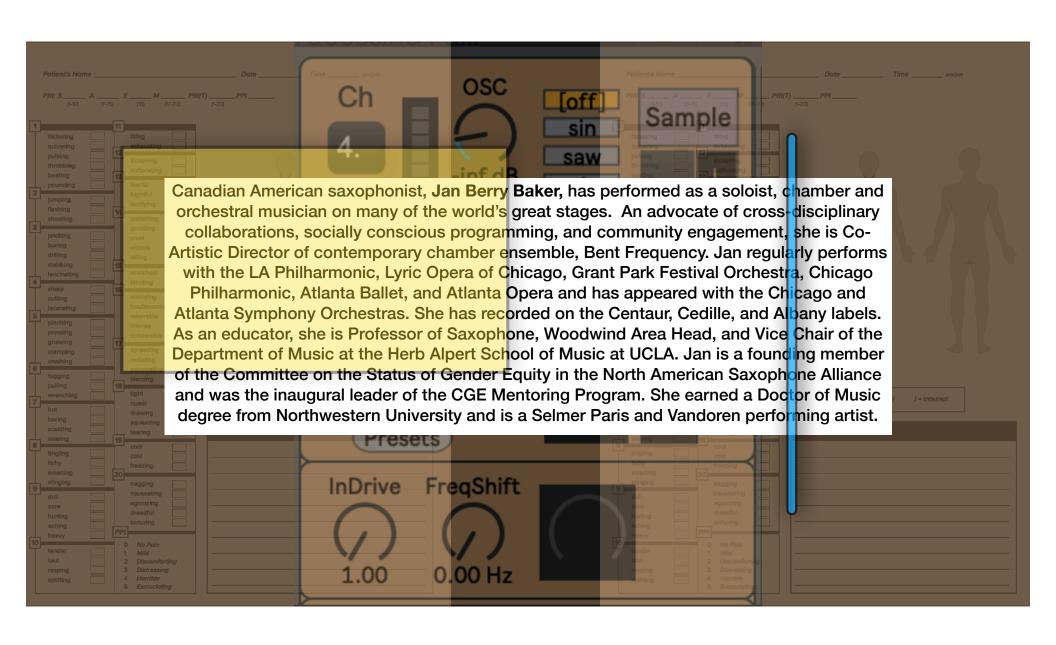


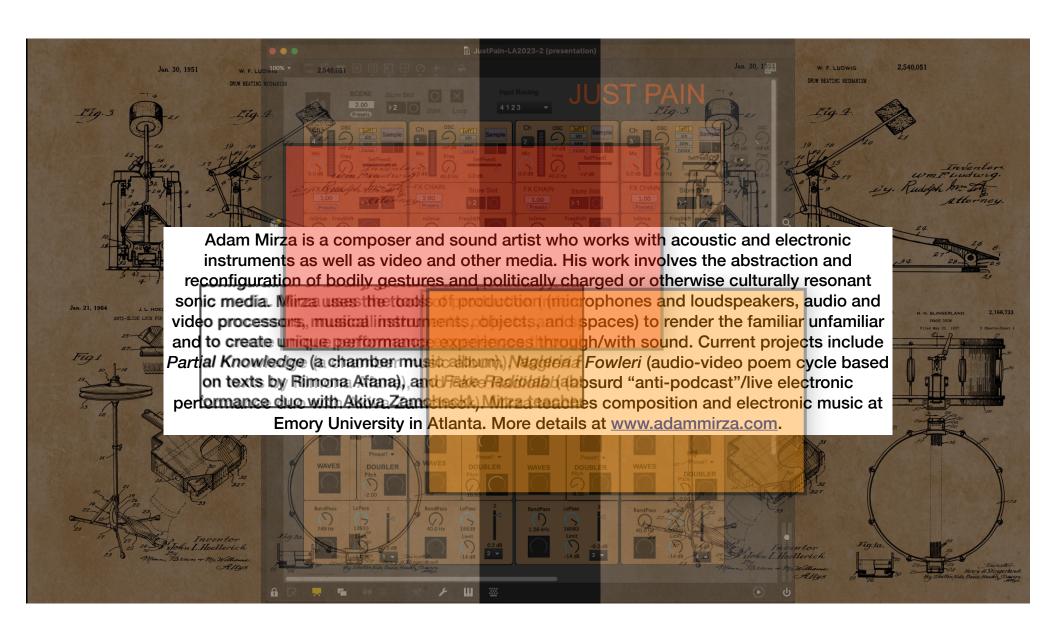


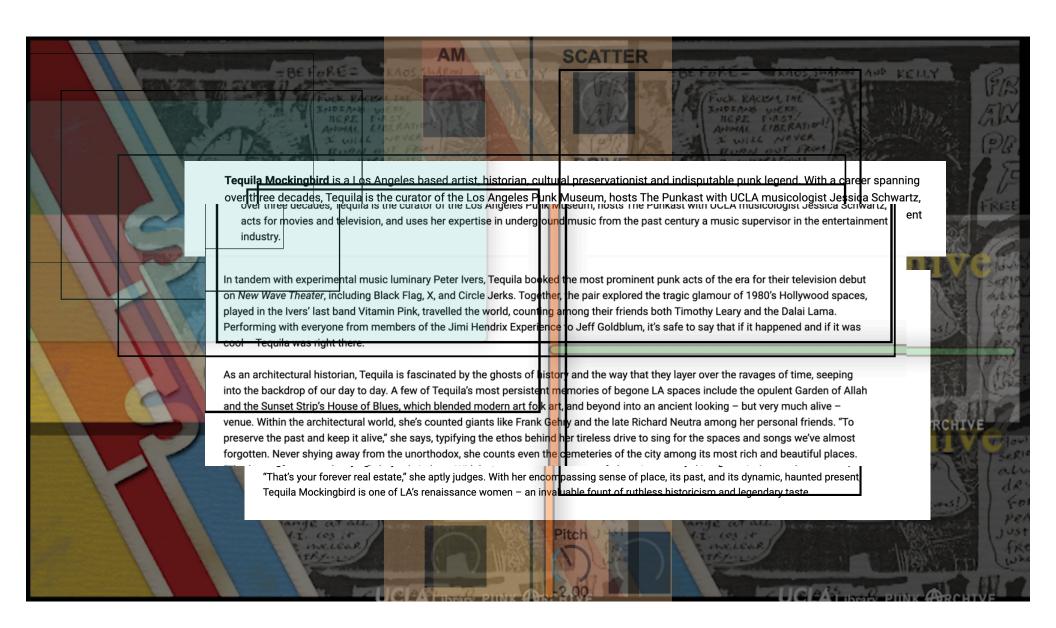






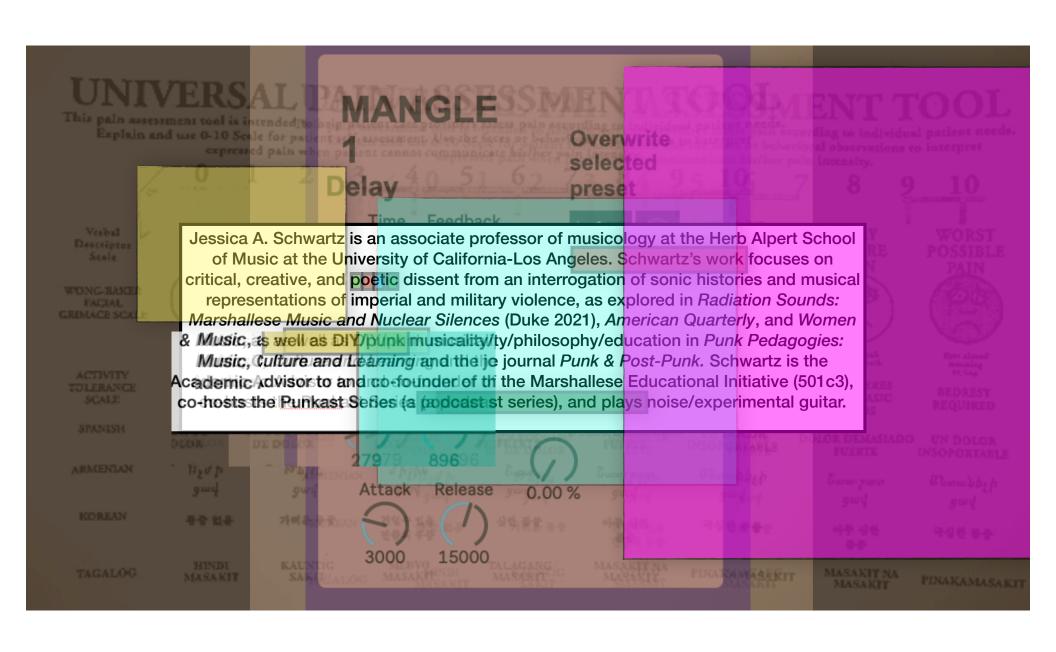








Jerry Pergolesi is a founding member and percussionist for the Toronto based contemporary chamber music group ContaQt, and a founding member of the Queer Percussicion Research Group. Jerry's artistic practice and research considers the policitics of aesthetics and genre in 20th and 21st Century music, exploring the intratersection of queer and new music scenes, popular and art music scenes, st shared engagement, creative arts education and cooperative music creation processes specifically with non-musicians. He has presented his research at v various conferences and forums including LGBTQ Studies & Music Education in I & III and the Fifth International Conference on Minimalist Music, and contritributed the chapter "Anarchy and the subversive potential of silence in the mususic of John Cage" to the recent publication Queering Freedom: Perspectives on n Spirituality and Sexuality in Music Education. Jerry created and co-curates I Intersection, an annual multi-genre, barrier-free, accessible festival of experimental music based in Toronto and Music from Scratch participatory community-based music creation workshop for excluded youth.



BREATH



INTERACTIVE ENSEMBLE

TRIGGERS

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