

SWR2 Audiohyperspace –Akustische Kunst in Netzwerken und Dataräumen

This Month's Audio Links - December 2003

AGRM - NG

By Vincent Epplay and Antoine Schmitt

Every single mix will sound completely different however stems from the same matrix. AGRM - NG is the abbreviation for "Abstract Generative Radio Mix New Generation". It is a sound-text-composition-generator. Whenever it is activated, it produces permanently new sound pieces, using a database, filled with about 200 samples. The pieces are between three and four minutes long and totally diverse from each other. However, there is a specific compositional signature audible, a kind of cool, technoid melancholy. The material, on which AGRM - NG is based comes more or less from a French CD with historical radio sounds. It had been produced in 2001 by Phonurgia Nova, an annual Radio-Festival, that takes place in Arles/France. Additionally to the old radio sounds, Vincent Epplay has composed a number of short synthetic samples, which give the generated pieces its sonic characteristic.

The software artist Antoine Schmitt has produced for AGRM - NG a computer program, which connects and processes all these materials according to certain complex criteria: First, a dramaturgical matrix was described, which gives a time-based structure to the compositions. After that, the simultaneity of sounds had to be defined. The sound modules were categorized in "families"; aesthetic criteria classify the conditions by which certain modules are playing together. Also, loudness, pitch, fades, delay, pan etc. are outlined by this procedure.

A vivid impression about this complex work of classification give the [screenshots](#) screenshots, which Antoine Schmitt has placed on his website.

AGRM - NG is a complex plait of connections, a carefully knotted matrix, which relates the sound database's modules in a way, which practically never allows the same composition twice. - An exceptionally well made sound work!