

XyLoops: Composition and performance of a work for xylophone and live electronics (live looping)

Helvio Monteiro Mendes¹, Alexsander Jorge Duarte¹, Cesar Adriano Traldi²

We present the process of composition and performance of the work titled XyLoops [1], composed for xylophone and live electronics, elaborated within the research project focused on Live Looping, developed through the Live Looping Laboratory (LoopLab / INET-md) of the Department of Communication and Art, University of Aveiro and the Nucleus of Music and Technology (NUMUT), Institute of Arts of the Federal University of Uberlândia.

XyLoops was composed in scope of a laboratory of musical performative practices, involving three musicians-researchers who performed different functions: 1) Idealizer of the compositional structure; 2) Enabler and creator of the technological structure through the Loop Station's configuration and real time sound processing by effect pedals; and, 3) Performer experimenting and suggesting questions related to the instrumental and technological part of the work.

This work is part of a model of scientific research called "shared research practices" (Sardo, 2017: 231), which allows greater democratization of the construction and

access to scientifically produced knowledge. The methodology adopted went through the following steps: a) Survey of the existing repertoire for xylophone and electronics in real time, which allowed the research contextualization within the repertoire of the instrument, as well as identify compositional and interpretative questions; b) Live Looping's conceptual study, aiming contextualize the research and survey technical and conceptual issues from this area; c) The information collected in the first two steps provided the work's compositional structure, basing the material to start the practical experiments of this research; d) Experimentation sessions allowed to solve technical issues related with electronic devices and also interpretative questions, from music score's reading and also performance required for this work.

The innovative character of this composition contributes to the expansion and development of the repertoire for xylophone and aims to assist interpreters and composers during the process of performance and composition of works for instruments and electronics in real time, focused on Live Looping.

¹ — Department of Communication and Art, University of Aveiro

² — Institute of Arts of the Federal University of Uberlândia, Brazil

FIGURE 1

Equipment and connections used to perform the work XyLoops.

FIGURE 2

XyLoops performance at LoopLab/INET-md.



[1] http://vortex.unesp.br/mendes_duarte_traldi_v6_n2b.pdf