

LEXICA

CAGEE

by J. Bolland

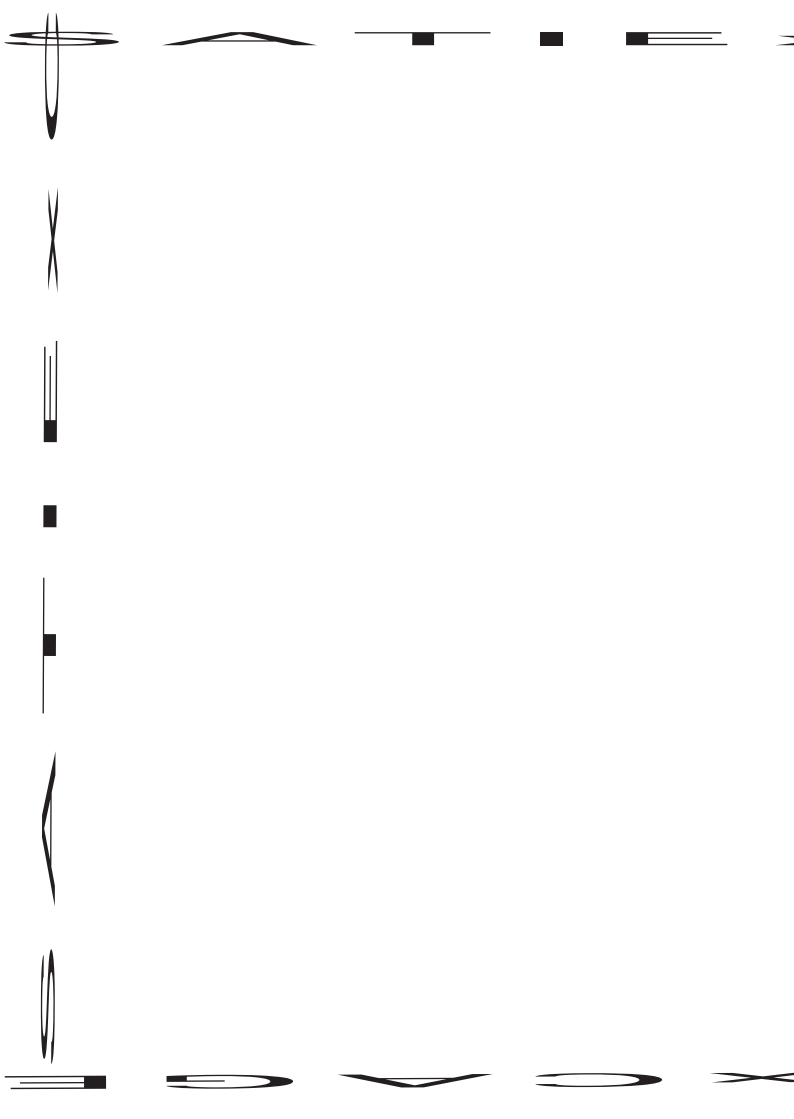
AGES

Whim of

ESAT

Iron

SATIE





A Whim of Iron
J. Bolland



This book was made in 2014 to coincide with two performances I made at the Dundee Contemporary Arts space at the invitation of Raydale Dower, Rob Churm, and Tony Swain for their exhibition entitled Continue Without Losing Consciousness... (a quote from Satie - some extra-musical direction on one of his piano pieces).

I performed Satie's Vexations via a MAX-MSP patch that Ray had made so that the piece would then play the further 840-odd times that the piece (in jest I think) asks the performer to repeat it for. It sounded throughout the gallery continuously for a day and half I think, which I'm sure Satie would have enjoyed.

I also made a shoddy performance of John Cage's Water Walk, a kind of water music that takes performance into slightly slapstick terrain, with duck whistles and goose calls, a pressure cooker, bath and soda siphon, amongst other paraphernalia. The texts here come from the Youtube comments section to the videos of the original two pieces. Hope you enjoy!

Jamie
4.5.23



Erik Satie

Always mesmerizing.

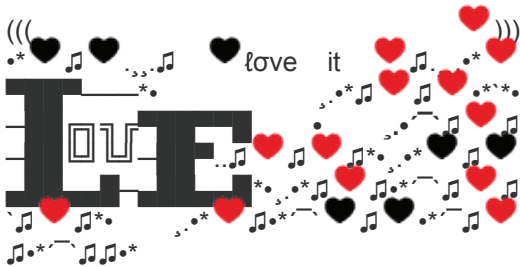
Last Erik Satie for the night, I think.

With thanks to the new Youtube comment system you shall all miss the recollections of the user "fritstube", but down below you can still read his recount and experience of this depiction of the passage of time.

This is a famous piece by now, though there's frustratingly little definitive information about it. The first publication was by John Cage, some 25 years after Satie's death. Satie didn't leave many instructions about this work, just that "In order to play the theme 840 times in succession, it would be advisable to prepare oneself beforehand, and in the deepest silence, by serious immobilities". I can only assume that listening to it would require similar conditions.

Satie apparently wanted to create a piece that would be a challenge to standard notions of harmony and tonality. It is based

on tritones (C-F#), the “devil’s interval.” If one listens long enough it reorients your relationship to tonality. The longest piano performance in history (39 hours by one pianist) was a performance of this piece.



what is up with the no handed clock!?!?

quite vexing, huh?

Hello my name its Domingo. Im from the future, please dont research anymore about this music, it contains some really hidden ecuation for time travel and its very dangerous. Dont mind looking too much at the paper where its written. 100101000101

011100101001010011001010101101111111
0101001101010101010100101010101010
10101010101011101011011001010101101
010100110100101010101010101011011
1010101010101001010001010101010101
0100101010101010101000

TIME !!!

I guess you can only understand what's literal. You must have a lot of trouble with those mechanisms of language that some call "jokes" or those other infinitely complicated devices that some call "metaphors".@larcaster

Which key is it written in?

ENCORE!

Anybody knows someplace to download Vexations? Can't find it anywhere.

The theme of the doldrums, I feel.

this is too short..

This is actually an example of what can be called “furniture music”. It is just there, it doesn’t really mean anything. It is there as a decoration, just like a furniture. Indeed Satie didn’t really want people to listen to it as a regular piece of music. He probably wouldn’t care if people would leave after 10 minutes or after an hour or not even bother to listen at all.

Apparently Erik Satie during his entire life hasn’t been involved with an other woman than Suzanne Valadon. He was madly and tenderly in love with her, he proposed marriage after the first night but she declined. 5 months later she went away which left him deeply depressed. He wrote this piece shortly after as a kind of self-punishment.

It was sometime during the 1980’s. I was a concierge at the Amsterdamsch Conservatorium. There was a concert going on and it ran late. I wanted to lock up and

checked what was going on. A pianist had just given a recital and gave this piece as an encore! I knew the piece, because Reinbert de Leeuw had just performed it on Dutch television. After about 20 minutes the audience left one by one. When the pianist was alone (we were the only two left in the building) I very slowly dimmed the light ...

Thank you for the information. There is a French translation of the book, I read it soon. Best regards.

I'd kill myself if I had to listen to this 840 times

Thank goodness the piano's in tune...

@YpsilonFunMagazine Time should simply be taken...

@PatrioticGiraffe1 I assume the intention of a 24 hour piece is to be special, different of the rest. Well, i dont feel the piece make justice for that long time you are supposed

to listen to..

@PIANOukla Thank's. However, the time of "Vexations" is not distorted, it is differently. It is time for those which want (or can) to take their time. It is not despair...

On the 4th, 5th go around, I can see it. You just want it all to resolve, and it's so annoying, so vexing. Satie is a genius.

east?

@VioSonata ;)

Nous croyons à tort que les "choses" que nous percevons sont identiques, semblables dans l'instant, mais dans la durée, elles sont toujours différentes. Matisse disait : " Il y a des fleurs partout pour qui sait les voir".

This is probably the perfect study music, dense, confusing, meditative, thought-provoking, abnormal, atonal, paradoxical.

Interesting how that clock with no hands causes anxiety. Has nothing to do with the music. Interesting image.

@OMaqlac Wasn't saying it was bad, just asking what you were supposed to do.

Satie is truly great. I think he invented Jazz.
@OMaqlac Surely you have a point here... Depends on the way you perceive this particular piece of music... For me personally, it is connected with despair and the reason is not only the music itself but also the circumstances under which I firstly heard about it... What I wanted to say is that by playing (or listening to) it continuously you stop being conscious of the passing of time... And I'm not sure so sure about my use of "distorted"... Is it too negative?

It's the music of somewhere else

I forgot to turn off my Eno when I listen this track. /watch?v=0R-mscnjl14

To listen, simply put aside stereotypes ;)

I think this song has to be repeated 48,000 times. With NO mistakes.

Marvelous!!!!

But why would you have to play this piece lots of times?

any random notes piece played 840 times would produce the same effect... nothing special here..

There is a 24-hours-concert from this day 13:14 till tomorrow in our school. I've been listening 3 hours so far and I'll continue doing so. It's a fantastic feeling! :)

Mais Sébastien, tout dépend de son état d'être. Si l'on voit le monde en noir, alors il est noir. Mais si l'on met de côté ses préjugés, les choses changent aussi. Amusicalement (ce sont les us et coutumes qui nous conditionnent)

Everything depends on his mood!

Because for almost the same sentence, I found three different authors.

Thanks to a little bit of math, a neat little website, and a neat piece of freeware, I've been able to create a full 24 hour, 27 minute, 17 second MP3 of the full 840. If anyone's interested, send me your e-mail address in a personal message, and I'll see if I can e-mail it to you.

Bbc radio 3 did this once overnight (god bless 'em!) outrageous but needed!

... et encore 839 fois... *sourir* ;]

@ 4:40 chilling silence.

Dear Maxerota, the timeless clock is my own design. Best regards.

But that is exactly where the problem lies.

There is no purpose, it is from there that there is “vexation”...

his Gnossiennes (No. 1-6) my favorite piano music of all time. #classicalmoseallison

I mean it sounds like a cynical joke

Am I the only one who finds this scary?

@dylannau Could you share your experience on that performance? That would be really interesting to see!

no you woudn't! after the first 10 repetitions you'll maybe hate it BUT after 40 repetitions(more than a hour) you feel something very new! And then, after 100, 200 or 700 you'll enter a new part of yourself!

@JupiterIV XD dude

« L'homme a deux oreilles et une bouche pour écouter deux fois plus qu'il ne parle » (Alphonse Allais) « Si nous avons deux

oreilles et une bouche, c'est pour écouter deux fois plus qu'on ne parle. » Voilà ce qu'aurait dit un certain Confucius, quelque 500 ans avant J.C.

Well since it's two bars of music played 840 times, it takes around 24 hours. Here's what one pianist said about it: "I would not play this piece again. I felt each repetition slowly wearing my mind away. I had to stop. If I hadn't stopped I'd be a very different person today... People who play it do so at their own great peril. ... [I] had to stop because [my] mind became full of evil thoughts, animals and "things" started peering out at [me] from the score." From TV Trope's

wait a minute this is an extract?! how long's the full then?

it's clearly a joke

so you're supposed to listen to this for 24 hours straight?

I think it's 840 times.

@elpactodejohnson1 Satie never instructed that this piece should last for 24 hours. He only wrote something in the score about it being played 840 times, but not that it SHOULD be played that much. The first time they did that, it lasted for 18 hours.

The image of the video suits the music perfectly! When you join the dissonant despair of Satie's "Vexations", time is distorted...

i find this depressing, unsettling and creepy. but i like it.

Dear OmacLac, élo, Listenning this music makes me feel sadness, incompleteness and loneliness in spiritual register. Like a boat navigating on an oil-sea, just after his departure. Cordialy your, DesSoto

TOO SLOWWWWW!!

Why would satie need to punish himself for a girl not wanting to marry him????

@OMaqlac Thanks for sharing your opinion as well as the music with us... :)

Because the life, it is like that...

Not really scary but i feel like "No hope" "left alone" "forgetten".

Actually no, we have two ears so we can have a better comprehension of the world around us. When you hear a noise it gets to an ear before the other and your brain triangulates its position. Epictetus clearly knew nothing about physics nor Alphonse Allais nor Jean Claude, nor Confucius

just 18.

in the next time some pionists from my school play this. ^^

this gave me goosebumps. i'll better stick to

my rock music...

I always want to listen to something when I am working. But most of the music are too piercing. And this piece suits me well though it may sounds a little weird.

This music reminds me of waking up and being the last person on earth... Just wandering and trying to find another living, breathing thing...

“We have two ears and one mouth so we can listen twice as much as we speak.” - Epictetus

furchbar !!

mierda, no veo cómo se te puede agradecer el haber subido esto... gracias, supongo.

I listened to all Beethoven concertos and symphonies all Bach Prelude and Fugues, Rachmaninoff concertos, symphonies, vespers seperately and preludes-moments

musicaux, etudes tableaux and suites together, all Chopin Preludes, Nocturnes and Etudes together, all Concertos and Ballades together, I watched Der Ring des Nibelungen without a single stop. I like doing this but this is way too extreme...

I am about to participate in a 12 hour performance of this piece throughout the night, outdoors on the banks of the Mississippi river with 10 other musicians, should be fun.

the French translation of "I very slowly dimmed the light" is uncertain. But maybe to be better informed by the work of Satie, one must accept this uncertainty.

i have to write a short piece for school in the style of vexations and i have no idea where to begin

oh god why, this song is kind of unsettling... (Probably because it played in that creepy "The Odd Scout" video. And that's the first

place I heard it.)

That, if anything, is an understatement!

What does this song mean? What is it telling us?

all have sense!!! all!!!!

Merci.

Hi there ! Even if it is a very sad music when i hear it, i feel understood.

Sometimes we are surprised that the heirs are older than their ancestors. Regards.

@Jazzbob889 I like "Vexations" so much. In YouTube, 10 minutes... but it is not possible to make more.

why wasn't this in the shining's sound track??????

@dylannau — Pensez à de l'eau qui coule...

@YpsilonFunMagazine Firstly, i really like ur spelling of bootyful. Secondly: We are all on our way to the graveyard and non of us will be late. So there's no reason to hurry. Even if life is short. I got leukemia and found the time to listen to it. I have nothing to do, and LOTS of time... lol.

I think I have got this piece finally. Those are two people arguing about something. Neither one understands what the other is talking about, and they actually don't like each other very much anyway. :) If anyone has a better interpretation, let me know. I am prettu sure of it.

@ghoohg551 Nobody is obliged to listen. It is with each one to choose.

18 hours

Thanks !

This man was something on the order of

100 years ahead of his time.... >shaking head in disbelief<

うあああ.....

They both liked his work, Cage admired Satié's "Socrate" and composed some Variations of "Vexations". You can read this in a book called "For the Birds", which contains some conversations that Cage held with Charles Daniel, quite an interesting book.

reminds me of Lars von Trier's melancholia

この何かに引き込まれる感じ・・・ かなり好きだ 18時間も聴いていられるかは分からないけどね

REQUEST ! About 15 years ago Chicago FM station WFMT did a fundraiser. They invited many pianists to play their variations on Vexations. Some of these were great! Is there a copy of this floating around somewhere? I'd love to hear some of this.

@ghoohg551 No. Not straight. Gay!

I bet philosophy is not your favourite subject
hahahahahah

Such is life

Why did you write the same sentence out
twice with slightly different grammar?

Its very hypnotic! Not something I would
think as punishment! Though I have the
score to this, I have never learned it! I will
have to try it and see how many times I can
endure...840...wow!

Thomas Bloch was one of the first musician
who played alone and without stop the
complete Erik Satie's Vexations, a 24 hours
piano piece. He played it three times : in
Galerie d'Art Jade (Colmar, 1984), in Satie's
apartment in Montmartre (Paris, 1985)
and with John Cage during Holland Festival
(Amsterdam, 1988).

Are there affinities with Alkan?

I think its beautiful, but imagine this for 18 or 24 hours. you would rather have something to do, don't you? its just to long...

@mahler151 i did it, thats why i said what i said. and now of course im not listening....

I don't understand what you mean exactly.

Well....as a means to punish himself ;)

Minimalism and repetitive music avant-la-lettre. Beautiful, although I can't keep out longer than a few hours, only when I feel extremely depressed.

@elpactodejohnson1 Then don't listen.

In 1970 at Cummington Community of the Arts (in the Berkshires, Mass.) I was part of a team that played this for 24 hours. An unforgettable experience. Nothing can

represent the experience itself. A ten minute sample is just a drop in the ocean. Even an electronically created full version is no clue to the experience of concentrating for hours, despite drowsiness, on this horrible sequence of tritones....

@123ilovemygirl ;)

You've nailed it. That's exactly what it's about.

So I'm supposed to stand you existing for 70 years straight?

That clock has Everything to do with the Music!!! Time has disappeared completely!!!

No divisions! No lines, no angles!

Didn't realize it was looping till i read the description..

Imagine this the whole movie all would end up like Jack Nicholson,

Well, Satie was always against the musical establishment (conservatories etc.) and much of his music can be seen as a provocation. His use of parallel chords, avoidance of resolution and static harmony was at the time truly against the romantic ideals of the conservatory. With surrealism

Satie brought back humour and irony to the table. I suppose that his “furniture music” (which this is an example of) is most provocative.

open up 2 tabs at different points for some real fun

@Raluk54 C'est exactement ce qui se passe pour moi, mais en français ! Comme quoi ça marche dans toutes les langues.

Wow!!!!!!!!!! Grazie Frà!!!!!!!!!!

it is probable that Morton Feldman (friend of John Cage) appreciated the work of Satie.
Bonne journée Bill Bonner.

SUCH

@pdutartre - redoubtable ;)

A sensitive interpretation!

Hypnotic - Reminds me of Morton Feldman's music

Such is the way of the world.

ive been listening to this video almost constantly for two days now! its simply beautiful.

It would be great movie to see though, if you had just put a big check in the bank and drove home in your Jag to your bong

& media center to watch it with the freaky librarian from the Honors College Library. By “furniture music” I mean music that doesn’t really mean anything, just music that is there, being a decoration just like a furniture. That’s what Satie wanted.

... by thinking the vacuum ...

@senorspiegel it is necessary to put in loop...

eeewwwwwww

toujours chez les classiques, un petit morceau d’une minute seulement, pas trop énervant à la base, mais censé être joué un certain nombre de fois d’affilée. 840 pour être précis...

#JeudiChansonsEnervantes

Nasıl bir insansın sen Erik Satie, bestelerin bana ilham oluyor sayende görünmeyenleri yazıyorum... Bestelerindeki o gizemli mistik hava beni adeta dilediğim dünyalara sürüklemekte...

ホント近代の作曲家ってのは大好きだなw

新古典派とかホント大好きだ♪

良 い っ す ね ～ ! !

私はこれが大好きです。
ドビュッシー ナイス w
[Erik Satie - Gymnopedie No.3 \(Orchestrated
by Debussy\)](#)

Satie précurseur de John Cage et Morton
Feldman.

still doesn't make sense to me. What
is the idea of this piece. A meditation or
something? Who can tell me? I really want
to learn and understand

how quirky.

Ce qui est amusant, c'est penser à Satie qui
vu son humour notoire s'est dit "Peut être un
niais suivra cette consigne à la lettre"

je l'ai écouté pendant 1heure, dans le noir...
C'était comme une spirale qui m'attirait...
Terrifiant ! =)

Thanks for your comment BlueDancer -
at least art still has the power to produce
violent emotions - it's obviously affected you
greatly enough to spew forth about it. As for

being easy to perform - it's rather deceptive actually. I can play it myself, but the similarity between the 2 variations is such that with repetition it becomes quite confusing, and especially after 20 times on the trot, let alone 840, liable to hypnotise you.

Même mort, je suis convaincu que Satie se bidonne encore qu'un "niais" (le mot est bien choisi, pilsberg =D) ait suivi une telle indication ... Mais du pianiste ou du public je me demande qui est le plus niais ... lol

il est etonnant! merci pour le partage de la vidéo

It's like the first minimalistic piece

Merci pour votre commentaire fanakaulitz - vous ne pouvez pas endurer toutes les 18 heures? Je dois avouer que c'était un peu terrifiant veiller toute la nuit...! ;-)

I agree, this seems faster than "usual". But in any case I love vexations, when I played

5 hours of this (not straight) last year during summer school, it was a truly amazing experience that I will never forget.

i played this yesterday jaja

Very grateful for this video. Good friend participated in a similar even in Miami and now i know what she was doing. PLUS Satie is nourishing music, if a person can calm down for a minute.

Inspector Remorse if only I knew what you meant... eh? what leek girl?

i was there! have to admit, lasted the whole night, but left hrs before the end because the music was starting to make me delusional lol

bezigheids therapie

Bueno ya se que este evento pasó hace más de medio año. Pero quiero decirte que me pareció una farsa completa el hecho de

que los boletos estaban agotados desde antes de que iniciara el mismo Festival. Fue poca o nula la difusión de las fechas de venta de los boletos

Andy Warhol, in one of his initial experiments in film, did a film of different people sleeping. They weren't doing anything else, just sleeping. The piece was many hours long and I believe this song was looped as the sound track. I think to understand what this particular piece is about you'd have to do more research on Andy Warhol and his film 'Sleep'.

Ce qui est terrifiant c'est de jouer les 840 fois seul sans relais o_0

he plays a lot faster than ive ever heard it

i'm currently on the hour and a half if listening to this video on repeat. Going to try till 7 am (it's 2 :30 am now)

I've got a midi version of Vexations that

plays for 18hrs. When I play it at 4x or 8x speed it isn't morbid at all, it's quite jolly. I think a pianist should try that, just a couple of cycles.

This song is really sad, but so wonderful. I love Vexations.

daar zie ik de humor wel van in..

No, I haven't - who and why and what? Tell all.

Jouer Vexation pendant 18h c'est effectivement une vexation à la fois pour le pianiste et pour le public :D pour ça qu'il faudrait éviter de relayer les pianistes quand un projet est fait de jouer la pièce 840 fois

I agree. I have also played in this and it becomes quite hypnotic. Above that, making tritones and the chords sound good, is quite hard because the piece goes against Classical ideals of which we are used to playing and hearing. I also agree with your

comment above too. The joke really is on us! ;)

I think you're right aryul - I think he was joking because as you say he did have a weird sense of humour. He would write things in his scores that would have nothing whatever to do with the music or how it should be played, but were just silly or poetic. The last laugh is probably definitely on us for enduring it, but what the hell?

lol leekspin! gotta love it

@COCOONFABULA en effet c est une experience hors du commun , je pense que c est vraiment quelque chose a faire au moins une fois dans sa vie

LOL

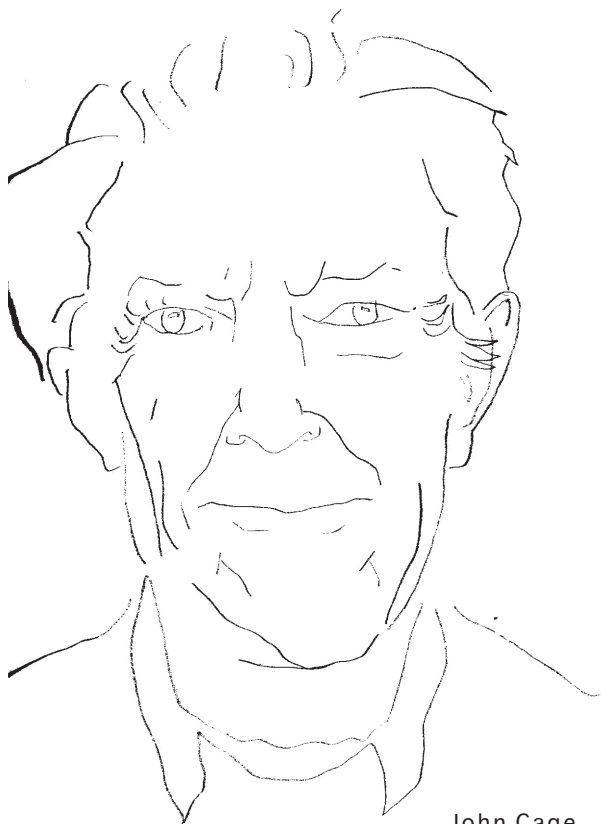
we did a project @ school where teacher, students and parents played together for a whole day- our music teacher forced us to listen.... it was horrible!!

What an extraordinary performance! (I wish I could have been there.)

i'm playing this piece tonight at 2 in the morning! good lord!

Oh that makes me sick.... I just ask myself WHY? And the song is f***ingly morbid, i completely do not understand, why the hell they played same horrible and easy to perform-song for 18 hours??? Instead of camera, has been someone watching the exhibition of that? I think that this could be used as a kind of torture in medieval ages..... :D Oh no sorry, it's really interrestibng, but i really cannot say that's "amazing" ... :D Have a nice day people :o)

Why thank you seppojustnow - I'm glad you were able to see it. Satie is good, isn't he. You should hear Relache if you've not already - plus see the film Entr'acte which uses that music and in which Satie appears. Toodle pip.



John Cage

I don't get it.

you can look at this as sheer performance art or as i think it was intended, like the ambient sounds in a movie. i had a hard time ignoring the laughter but i kept feeling like i had heard all the sounds in that order before, almost like a soundtrack to a dream or something.

OK, This is just unbelievably funny. Especially when he mentions what instruments he uses in this piece. But I give him credit for experimenting with different sounds and I find it quite clever!

This is pretty phenomenal! <3 John Cage.

I had an Uncle that would do something similar when he got drunk. Had to keep alert for lawn darts coming atcha'.

This is where Shocklee brothers got the inspiration from:

Don't use the word MUSIC please,
It's only a joke a show for cabaret

you're so booooooooooooooring

HE IS A GENIUS STUPID FUCK ...

i wish i could hear this without the laughter

I think Cage "included" the laughter in the
piece

+**Dave Birney** I agree! But the only reason
why I want to hear it without laughter is
because the piece is hard to hear :/

they never should have cancelled i've got
a secret

i watched this in Tuttle's history class last
year. it changed my life...

I love how he just plays one random
dominant seventh chord at [7:00](#) and then

hits the piano with the fallboard.

incredible sound art. Cage was a visionary that deserved more popular recognition, though many people have a narrow view on what music is and what it is not. I cannot help but cringe at the idiots laughing at this. I cannot fathom why anyone would not consider this interesting and original rather than funny.

Fantastic performance!

Thanks to Gavin Halm for finding this gem from the annals of Avant-Garde-Artist-Meets-Befuddled-TV-Host-History!

so great!

John Cage

[John Cage - Water Walk](#) con dedicacion al buen monín

Caballero, lo admiro.

Happy 99th birthday, Mr. Cage.

Watch John Cage performing “Water Walk” in 1960 on the popular TV show “I’ve Got A Secret”:

A highlight of American popular culture and viewed at the FOCUS! 2012 Cage at 100 concert last night

I love you John Cage. So much of the present are the strong branches of seeds you sewed during your remarkable life.

retweeted, brilliant stuff

not intended to be funny

People often laugh at what they don’t understand.

listen to those snobs laughing in the background. pfft...cage is amazing.

Actually, by laughing, they become instruments. I don't see them as snobs at all. They're performers.

So Cage, basically, displayed every state of matter water can exist in, as well as the most common applications of water in modern life, all in musical form. That is rather brilliant.

For some reason I have an overwhelming urge to go buy a pack of Winston's. Huh.

This composition production is recreational for a second time to hear water walk,..with actual radio sounds :)

Interesting stuff. Sounds like a horror movie soundtrack... it even sounds like early industrial (if you take out the laughing).

Water

Walk

A look back at the early days of John Cage in this, his centenary year.

I shared this on G+ back in November and a +1 just put it back in front of me. Voila!

And that's how dubstep started

I'd gladly change my mind if you'd care to provide a proper counterargument.

this is the beginig of electronic music..every composer must know him

blah, resonances in frequencies in first half. he tires and can't dissonant it.

Grande John , este man es un DEMENTE!

the fact that this made it onto post-war American national television is astounding

Liszt, Chopin, Beethoven, Mozart, Rachmaninoff, and others had a different idea of music than Cage. It doesn't mean their music is the only music that's brilliant or that's right--just listen to traditional Asian

or Middle-Eastern music. Cage was a pioneer in his own right and though you may not think it's music, there are plenty who his music resonates with and who perceive the genius behind his and other (post)modern composers' works. Don't demean it just because the pretentious past might.

"...I consider laughter preferable to tears."

It made me laugh.

This is really extraordinary moment in culture. As if on a breeze, you can sense the new liberty, levity and freshness of the 1960s arriving, and popular culture embracing it. The sounds themselves are great, and Cage is magnificently unsnobbish, allowing whatever reaction the crowd wants and letting his P.T. Barnum side eclipse his austere inner Buddhist. And a union dispute! The labor movement!

Like my art, well maybe is bad... but J. Cage Art? you must be kidding.

This is almost as interesting for the unions' "jurisdictional" dispute as for the groundbreaking nature of having avant-garde music performed on a show like this. Incredible that a petty dispute over who gets to plug in the radios ends up hampering an artist's performance. In the long run, this kind of muscle-flexing succeeded only in contributing to the low regard in which most Americans hold unions today, and to the attrition of union ranks.

I actually really liked the fact that the audience laughed. I consider this somewhat an extension of the "Theater of the Absurd" from a few decades before; Samuel Beckett's plays were found fairly humorous (and I find them fairly funny too). There's something about the chaos, about the deconstruction of art down to its simplest forms and its randomness that seems to be appealing. In Beckett's play there are many random lines and moments that have reminded me of a lot of humor in sitcoms today.

i like that he just pushes shit off the tables
at the end there. zero fucks given. genius.

my homework brought me here. Strange.

I can understand it as sound, that makes
more sense to me.

And why are these people ignorant?

WHERE IS THE MUSIC IN THIS!?!?!?

I liked the part with the watering can

What is laughter? Most often a reaction to
the unexpected. I don't know the context of
this show, but it seems like a majority of this
audience wouldn't have known what they
were going to see in this performance. Now
when we look at Cage, knowing his work,
the context, the history - the performance
isn't as funny because we are aware of his
work and his intentions. But I don't think that
laughter is an unnatural response to this
performance that (even today) is still rather

unusual.

I can't hold myself not to respond with my own recent performance of the piece, no comparison to the master of course! Please check it out. Jenny Q Chai performs Cage Water Walk

I'd love to see the score for this

I mean Genius

Very clever - a sincere question all you cage fans - who of you would listen to this at home - and genuinely enjoy listening to it many many times over ?

Cool ad hominem.

@MrRiisLarsen Despite your best efforts, by calling the audience "simpletons" and disliking their laughter, you probably understand Cage less than this audience did. He intended that laughter. It was in fact part of the music. It was a random, ever-

changing element, something that Cage found essential.

Genious

@jkakfpl true true this video is just OMG i love it Also! peeps are using this to get it on your pod --> bit.ly/UtjpFZ?u=ufmoq

exactly ReverseLBlock. fully agree.

You must be an Arts degree student.

What I like and what I appreciate are different things... I appreciate this but I don't like it... Can anyone who isn't a pony snob say that they listen to this on repeat oh isn't it catchy...

lol, and if they were booing and throwing sharp objects at him I suppose Cage would have intended for that as well?

@silentmason the cataclysmic collapse of any structure is beautiful and fundamental to

all types of evolution whether it be physical or mental. just because he tore down your ideas of what music is supposed to be does not mean that he is a dolt. structured music is a skill but original music is art and all art is about expression, either of self or of environment. if music is designed to send a personal feeling out to a group of people then he succeeded.

@ThatSalvadoreanGuy The laughing is part of the music.

He's sounds like the Brain, from Animaniacs.

@ImpreciseException nah man, it doesn't... it might not appeal to you, but there was a lot of laughter in the audience, and laughter is an emotional reaction.

looks like my daily routine

@ThatSalvadoreanGuy The most important thing when it comes to music of ANY kind is that it cannot be taken too seriously.

Even though this is considered music, Mr. Cage clearly wasn't taking it that seriously; he played the piece as he wrote it, in the precise time intervals, but he would never tell you he considers this a great masterpiece. The amazing thing is that Avante Garde music like this puts the 'play' back in music. It should be fun, playful, and yes, even humorous to make music :)

This would make sense if this was Monty pythons flying circus , as it is its crap crap crap

Weird

At first glance I thought that John Cage was seemingly pretentious and was trying to come off as "unique", however the more I speculate about his Music, the more an idea pops up. I then think perhaps he's teaching us something? Perhaps John is trying to show us that Music is not this momentous entity we create for a specific period of time, rather it's surrounding us our entire lives;

building, building ever so high with everyday sound.

Great composition of sound, some people just don't get it.

the mark of a Genius

and laughter is a legitimate response as well.

To add..... I am sure he is chuckling at those who try to emulate Cage as his works were a unique expression of himself. At the very least, it is mind expanding to imagine the world and expression the way cage did. See it through his eyes, if you will. A humorous man who understood the pitfalls of conventional thought.

They will call us narrow-minded, lack of culture and all that, but I have to agree. To my ears, this is not music. Period.

I respect that...hahahaha

Happy 100th Anniversary, Master JC !

I'm sure if I were to listen to those sounds intently (instead of just ignoring them like most people do) it would cause a change in my emotional state, however subtle. The only thing that irks me about this is that it could be argued some people are emotionally affected by some music, while others would have no reaction to the same music. Would what constitutes music under your definition vary from person to person or no?

I soooo agree! It's actually amazing. I've been studying Cage, and he is brilliant. The laughter only reflects the blatant ignorance of the time.

yeesh, cage had a creepy voice

It wouldn't have been the first time, actually.

@susanishardcore thanks!

@fossilfuelmusic That would have ruined the music. John Cage made the audience part of the music. If you don't understand that, then despite your best efforts, you don't understand Cage's views on music at all. That laughter was entirely intended and is as much part of the music as the rest of the sounds. It's an unpredictable sound: each time it's heard, it's different - something Cage found essential in sound.

Agreed.

@Macross100 si es evolución. si alguien hiciera una investigación sobre la evolución de la música desde la era medieval hasta nuestros días notaría que la música experimental, música libre, música de ruidos. etc. sería el único resultado obvio, claro, solo aplica a la música culta.

@susanishardcore music??

Fantastic!

most elegantly done, Mr. Cage!

[/watch?v=tUh7xpoSjL0](#)

Music is an art form comprised of sound and/or silence. All music is sound, but not all sound is music. Any sound can be music, though. That's just what I think. Also, before you say what I think you're going to say, this piece does in fact have melody, harmony, and rhythm, in the loosest senses possible.

I have listened to and performed Cage music over the years and he was indeed an amazing creator in many mediums. Having said that, like all artists, he is not for everyone anymore than Van Gogh is for everyone. Many of his pieces rely on understanding the "concept" he is manipulating or out and out study of his music. If a person spent 1/2 the time on Cage as they do watching tell all magazine shows on celebrities we would be much more inclined to appreciate Cage's creations.

@EricFinnerty <3 Aphex Twin

My first experience of Cage was in a bar, with people walking in and out while the performers made random yelps and screams and dragged a truck across the floor. It was undoubtedly the funniest and one of the best performances I've ever seen. To me, music's purpose is to elicit an emotional response, and JC's work done right does exactly that

Listening to Pnk Flyds "The Wall" the other day and realized how Cage influenced lots of music.

@ThatSalvadoreanGuy The audience was actually very civilized compared to what it would have been like with a modern audience. Nowadays people would throw stuff at him and call him names. (plus, it is well known that on live performances he had a lot of sense of humor, you're probably taking it more seriously than he himself did)

I love Cage so much.

lol @ the winston logo on the judge desk

@youaremyoffspring That was the first thing I thought of when I heard his name!

Sure, why not. If somebody records the sound of someone dying of agony and calls it music, then hell, I'll agree. Do you have any other reason for a sound or set of sounds inability to be music other than it "not sounding good" (which is completely subjective, which is why that argument is faulty).

lol are you serious? or just kidding

Wow, i think that was a great inspiration from music for the film Eraserhead.

This is grand on so many levels, not the least of which is that the union gets in the way of proper performance of the piece! Ha! Very

funny, and just brilliant. He always struck me as an incredibly generous and kind man.

@gridy999 People have different views on the definition of music.. and people like John Cage like to challenge them. You shouldn't insult other people's music just because they don't conform to your idea. If you listen closely, there is more than a slight concept or idea there; everything is so meticulously prepared and performed, reminiscent of the deluge of precise 'noise' that some expressionist pieces have. He was trying to further what he calls music, and we shouldn't discourage such act.

07:49~ GooD !!

Wow.. There's a strange resonance to the sounds.. And that was really nice of him to let people laugh. Laughing and happiness is a good thing after all, and people tend to take music too seriously to enjoy it =]

00:49~ GooD !!

you can call MUSIC, sound and silences... organized or aleatory... ok... so John Cage creates something that fit in that music definition... but, that music tendency has gone now... It was a period of music (a poor one) and it's over.. serious composer are now writing eclectic, taking elements of the past, combining with new sounds and techniques...

Anyone who is familiar with the music of a band called TOOL, look up the song they did called Disgustipated. They must have been influenced by this footage. Get what I mean? ;)

Chi sono gli idioti che hanno messo non mi piace

My appreciation of his work has nothing to do with the innovation, but with the deft skill with which it is executed. Every sound is intentional, in time, and appears effortless. It would be like a single man performing all

the parts in a bell choir. The results may not be aesthetically pleasing to everyone, but it is no less impressive for it. If you think perform the equal, I encourage you to do so and post the video. I'd be happy to watch.

“Sounding good” is subjective.

This man's a clown. I like it.

I forget that The New School has been around for so long. I think the name throws me off . Brought to you by Winston cigarettes !!! LOL

If the audience would be intelligent and filled by geniuses like Liszt, Chopin, Beethoven, Mozart, Rachmaninoff etc. instead of laughing they would be offended by this clown and his so called “music”.

Note that he turns on the blender at 6:59, but the rotor jams on what seems to be ice cubes in the pitcher. Subsequently, it seems that blender's motor winding overheats

severely, evidenced by the smoke present at 7:37 and then even more apparent at 7:40 and 7:49. He turns it off at 8:00.

you think I don't understand what Cage does? Just Because I don't find any rich elements in his music? C'mon... I'm a professional Classical musician and I love from Purcell to Lutoslawski, Brouwer, Atehortua, Hindemith... Cage it's just concept... and under the concept of "concept" you can create a lot of crap art... like Baskiat or even Andy Warhol. I think Art is a very rich and profound way of expression.. but if you talk me about classical or contemporary music.. that's a new level

Damn! Nobody's said anything about Mortal Kombat yet? U got Caged! I said it.

I hate how the laugh. Its his music, it's not supposed to be humourous...

John Cage 3:16 =)

@ThatSalvadoreanGuy i like how he took it,
such a good soul

@ThatSalvadoreanGuy Because it's
ridiculous.

I am always in trance while listening to this...

some people like metal music some other
like hip hop and others like experimental or
avant garde is it that so hard to understand
morons! i laughed too but in a good way...

Genius

Nice

will you just let the guy play....

@digitaljesus012 some people like one or
more forms of music, some music is sound,
some people are deaf

@miiwiplay "We are in an age of art with
no bad work. " Have you heard Rebecca

Black?

this is amazing if you are a big john cage fan you will love gabriel williams - the dissociation

It's pretty lame that people were laughing at him, but I feel as though the laughter is part of the composition, especially when it's faint.

@gridy999 And where would we be if every composer stuck dogmatically to the 'rules' of form, melody, harmony, rhythm, et al.? Cage was a pioneer.

sealyellinggay.jpg

Much of it is everyday actions performed. In my understanding, art can't be much more "down to earth". In a way this is so much closer to people's life than a pianist performing Mozart - by incorporating stuff they occasionally do themselves.

NOT MUSIC!

The host specifically said “you may laugh if you find it amusing,” beforehand. He wouldn’t of said that is Cage hadn’t instructed him to.

love it! i love cage uses everyday activities to create music!

I think the audience would laugh much the same.

So much respect for this man.

have you ever listened to Edgar Varese? Or perhaps Igor Stavinsky? I doubt you’ve heard of either. In any case you must listen for the themes/concepts behind the sounds....like listening to sounds of nature and finding structure in the randomn. It aint heavy, it’s entertainment. hehehe

No, you don’t get it. The laughter is part of the song, whether the audience knew it or not.

If someone showed me this video without the introduction, I never would have guessed "music."

@hybridfox mozart is a much different category than john cage. they shouldn't be compared

skip to 5:48 for the music

Oh yeah, and to all who do like John Cage here, disregard everything I am saying, as yes, my opinions are a reflection of myself. But I represent a reflection of what the population thinks is beautiful. It is by no means correct, because there is no correctness in beauty- it just is. However, as said before, if you like Mr. Cage's work, that is great, I respectfully applaud you actually, for having a discernment that, up to this moment I am unable to appreciate.

He is a Great Inspiration to us in
TRANSVESTITEstallion the Noisy

Experimental Art-Noise Band... Flower Power and Peace!

@miiwiplay agreed. what ever happened to art for art's sake?

The Laugh of the audience made a complement to the performance of a genius.

@treespunk, All composers can be compared equally, as all music is generated from the same creative source, the mind. @BlueCougar, I never said that this wasn't music, as referenced by the fact that said that I said this "music" sucks. This modernist movement was a grand failure. To me, if music is remotely marketable, such as that was marketable back when Mozart made his money, and now Andrew Lloyd Webber is, for example, then that is "good music". The rest is, subjectively speaking, bad music

After listening to this "music" and doing a little studying of my own, I've come to a conclusion. This music sucks. I'm just

being honest, comparing it to Mozart or Chopin! Come on! It has sucked ever since Schoenberg walked up on the soapbox and shook hands with Webern and the other guy and turned the entire Classical world upside down for nearly a 100 years. Please, lets not go the way Rap music is going, we all know where that is going; lets keep tonality in, please, have mercy people!

the laughs almost contrast the piece in an all too perfectly eerie way

Mr John Cage certainly had a sense of humor besides the fact that he was a musical genius...

Must there be a meaning? Aestheticism teaches us to appreciate art for art's sake. We don't need a reason or story behind it -political opinions or expected cadences. We are in an age of art with no bad work. Only different.

haha cigarette advertising at 3:31

i don't know how to thank you , this upload, estimated holotone...thank you thank you very much....from lima peru... south america capital of electronic music. This mr. and his theories was fantastic...also i am so fan of karlheinz stockhausen,, , cheers for them.

I think Cage considered the idiots laughing as part of his music

I found this quite brilliant.

@tykun101 Just look at John's face while he is being introduced, and listen to the host's tone. From my reading, it seems like Mr. Cage would like to be taken a bit more seriously, but the host plays the role of treating him like a clown by subtly mocking his "music," and frequently interrupting him. I'm totally down for zany, but also for heartfelt. I feel like the best combination comes when there is an initial serious approach to ridiculous material. Respect

yields more joy than sarcasm. :D

It's ok music evolves, I got your point... Not all music has to be attached to certain dogmas, or rules... that's necessary.. but.. I don't consider cage music the next step... maybe on a step, a tendency.. but not a great legacy... it's my opinion of course

Incredible. Water, in its multiple physical states, and so much more, precise timing, echoing a deeper, subliminal purpose; Why was it his choice as the composer to go rubber ducky, tea kettle, blender? Whereas another may have done Kettle, Ducky, Blender. Music, Philosophy, Theatrics and Physics all rolled into one. Fantastic

Fascinating :D

guy is batshit insane

WATER WALK- BECAUSE THERE IS WATER AND I WALK

Why is what he wants to do first presented as a secret, but then told openly?

@liftmedown001 Music is just an arrangement of sound, which this is. I've seen similar types of performances over the years and laughter from the audience often occurs. It's not ridicule, but enjoyment, surprise.

@silentmason Your argument is one of taste, not progressive styles or musicality.

er kanns halt

@cwarn56 , I agree, John Cage had a sense of humour and would not have been offended by the audience's laughter -- in fact, he was probably pleased and would most likely have considered that to be part of the piece.

wheres the batman

I'm just sad that I can't really hear the duck...

I agree. I enjoyed this performance and found it quite funny at the same time.

Cage was born 100 years ago today. This certainly made me smile!

@ImpreciseException I'm merely pointing out Cage's philosophy as a response to someone else's particularly snooty post - that doesn't necessarily correspond to how I view music though, no, just Cage's. Yes, Cage found every piece of sound to be music - it was more philosophical rather than entertaining (he was big on Zen Buddhism). The idea is when you examine sounds you normally don't, you notice minute details and complexities that can be deconstructed.

You can argue all you want to and call Cage a genius. This is just plain stupid. It's not existential. It's not daring. It's not art. It's some goofball making random sounds with random things. Quit encouraging these no talent knuckleheads and laying millions of

dollars at their feet!

Okay, good. First “Sound and music are two different concepts with two different meaning and they are not synonyms” I agree with this. The point on which we disagree is that I think every sound can be music, and you don't. Which is fine. The problem that I'm having with this is that your definition of music is reliant on the ability to stir up emotions, which is subjective. I also think it's worth pointing out that disgust and contempt are emotions too.

Such a great show that was. Imagine trying to present the avantgarde to today's TV audiences? Audience genuinely responds to this piece. Does anyone routinely perform it now?

Music doesn't always have to be serious. That's why we PLAY music...it's meant to be fun!

This is music. It has a purpose, it is

expressive, and it is organized sound.

@SubliminalAttraction I think what they mean is, that they dont understand what feelings, what expressions the pieces had. I dont know whether this piece is funny, happy or sad. If you hear Bach for example you hear a feeling, and if you have a trained ear you hear also hidden messages in the music. Here i hear just noises. I dont want to say, that I dont like it. Its interesting...

You know sincerely I just know what I know, and I am who I am, if I don't believe this is music it's my fucking problem, also if you believe this is music, ok I found out I can't change that. Fuck off. I'm aware I was the one who started this by posting that comment I'm gonna delete it. However I still believe John Cage and Stockhausen are not musicians and what they do is not music. Except for some Cage compositions.

Imagine a prime time television show even entertaining the idea of showing the

equivalent today.

It needed more melody.

John Cage did not made it as famous because of making music, he's famous for redefining it. Redefining it in a way that i don't like.

I consider laugh preferable to tears. :D

@happyface4444 Cage had sheet music for "Imaginary Landscape No. 1."

This is awesome. Very impressive.

Absolutely magnificent.

@OKOYA66 Depending on what we're calling intelligent. Today's viewers must have a wide knowledge of popular culture, science, and other socially relevant media. This was not expected of viewers at the time.

Really lynchian.. This is genuinely creepy music and the audience is laughing. I can see why the laughter was planned, because watching it today it really adds something to it.

Wonderful!! I put this on the facebook page JOHN CAGE'S 4'33" FOR CHRISTMAS NUMBER ONE 2010

Ugh. This is fantastic. If you don't like it, that's fine. It's an odd piece. But the guy clearly put a huge amount of effort into this. He probably spent months working on it. That sort of timing doesn't happen by accident.

Ma che cazzo ridono?!

@nycsym it's the evolution of composition, you can't be limited by 12 notes and some different sounds if you want to evolve, it takes time to understand, but once you get there you'll really appreciate this (sorry for my english)

Starts at 5:35.

Tv used to be so much more intelligent!

hilarious!

Fine.

2deep4me

The laughter is part of the music: the audience laughs, but why? How is this really so different from any other piece of music? It is a collection of sounds carefully and accurately put together, and yet it is met with laughter. This is the genius behind what John Cage is doing: he is showing us the strangeness of the human condition.

hahah me too :P

ahaha un genio!

@GraphicMovie "...of course, I consider

laughter preferable to tears.”

I can't help but think the aesthetic value is lost on this audience. But maybe the joke's on me because I'm the audience and those people were just more of his instruments.

@singalongwithtom For Cage, all compositions are performance pieces. 4'33" is absolutely a performance piece, in that the performance is the refusal to perform, opening the audience up to the surrounding environment. The Imaginary Landscapes are compositions with a performance element, but all are available on recordings. I think removing the visual element actually enhances the compositions: you are forced to visualize the source of the sounds, instead of having it all provided for you.

I studied with John cage. Brilliant, philosophical, a giant of modern music, a sincerely nice and good person: read his books!!!

At 3:56 Garry gives an example of the stupidity that caused American labor unions to fall apart in the ensuing decades.

What did he answer in 3:11? Couldnt understand... Can anybody tell me what he said? Thx

@moneyshop16 Cage just wants us to see the beauty in the everyday, mostly-ignored sounds we encounter. Much like Joyce in Ulysses wants us to see the hero in every man, even a sensitive advertising representative walking the streets of a British colony.

@moneyshop16 it's not meant to be funny it's experimental music.

He sounds like vincent price

@moneyshop16 I'm white...and a musician...and this is dumb...

laughter is part of it, and is expected by

cage.

@yumi1851 LOL exactly

Strange that when people don't like a composition they say they "don't know what it means", but I doubt they even look for meaning in compositions they like.

he reminds me of jean wilder in willy wonka!!

That was fantastic. For me it was more about the action than sound. Wonderful version of storytelling meaningless actions. Thanks you for the upload x

what a bellend

he forget laughs in his partiture

the laughs can be a bit awkward, but he doesn't seem to mind. most of that sound can be found in horror movies. that level of dissonance is just unnerving. but the radio thing wasn't planned so i think it perfectly

fine to laugh there. it was hilarious honestly.
seeing him knock down those radios.

Well, also union complications.

I'm so surprised he wasn't on drugs

@ebkurd Thanks, now I can find it again.

Genius ...

@devilman182: he did not "stand" the
laughs -- he intentionally incorporated them.
they are an integral part of the piece.

Isn't it wonderful how he makes the chords
on the piano, the most traditionally 'musical'
part of the piece stand out as the oddest
part of all!

Wow, I've recently discovered John Cage,
and I recall an almost identical video with
Frank Zappa and a bicycle years later. Have
you seen that? Zappa was young and in a
suit and behaving almost exactly the same.

Ignoring the laughter. Doing his thang.
Thanks for posting this. I'll try and find the
Zappa video again.

someone told me my work was like john
cage today and wow, what a compliment,
he is amazing

@Simon0 How do you judge superiority?
Lack of judgement? As lovely as much of
what Cage created is, my main quarrel is
that it is a flight from human interaction. In
alot of ways it is sterile. I'm sure I can get
slammed for saying it, but his is a sort of a
New Age Muzak. He seems to have had an
abhorance of anything emotional, for better
or worse. He is the inheritor of Erik Satie's
"Furniture Music" who, at a "performance" of
it got angry at people stopping to listen to it.

I really wish his performance wasn't ruined
by the audience laughing.

Sucks that couldn't turn those radios on :/

I am totally delighted by this. There are worse things than laughing. Besides, I know many composers who don't know how to use a pressure cooker nearly as well. Fabulous.

Never has the quail call been played with such passion

The statement "audience is so hella retarded" is ironic, because John Cage would never be a guest on another mainstream game show again. At least he was taken seriously enough in 1960. Could you seriously imagine John Cage on The Match Game? Hollywood Squares? Keep in mind that people laugh during modern performances of "4' 33'" to this day -- and it's a perfectly valid reaction. The audience laughter is perfectly valid on this game show.

Damn, Winston cigarettes.

Hmm...how?

this guy is the first troll

@madcapoperator Oh, that Bill.

lol this dude was far too ahead of his time, now this would be called ambient, back then it was just non sense.

My washing machine has a distinct rhythm and pitch when it's in the wash cycle and a different rhythm and pitch when it's in the spin cycle. It's all very minimalist, but it's not music. I think it was Louis Armstrong (or was it Schoenberg?) who said that there are only two kinds of music---good music and bad music. Cage was actually capable of composing some good stuff, but this isn't some of it.

@ablejack3 Thanks a lot! Its a great answer btw...

I call that multi-tasking

Amazing, the live version is exactly like the recording!

@storerestore excuse me? do you really think i'm being a dick here? what the fuck are you talking about?

Aside from being brilliant and ahead of his time, doesn't he look and sound a lot like Vincent Price? Am I the only one who see that?

@kalexandria According to Cage's philosophy: the laughter is one of the best parts of this. Any additional sound is all part of the intended composition.

@skapow138 what is this new time signature 4/7, did you make that up or something?

@yourtunesfuckinsuck No, I'm not saying that you are being a dick. I'm just pointing out that you say that you "hate music snobbery," only to contradict it with an explanation of your obviously snobby and exclusive view on music. I'm not eveng saying that I disagree, just that you should give up the

pretense of not being a music snob yourself.

@HotnessTim Music isn't inherently rhythmic, melodic or harmonic. This is a composition of sounds designed to evoke some kind of emotion, and as such I'd definitely call it music.

@storerestore no. i'm not a music snob. i listen to plenty of mainstream or even plain stupid music. i just want good music to be appreciated.

"I consider laughter preferable to tears",
John Cage

I'm impressed this has gotten over 375k views! Few people are patient and open minded enough to sit through 9 minutes of what this has to offer.

I like it

wow!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

It's actually not funny in the slightest...
Cage is making music in things we take for granted everyday...

8:09 badass riff

No entiendo de que se reía la gente...

貴重な映像ですね

Thanks

John Cage was poor until the day he died.
He made very little money with any of his music.

@Chuichupachichi In addition, take a modern electronic artist like Herbert. He made an entire album from the tones created from common household objects. He sampled the sounds they made when struck, dropped, etc. and then extracted portions of those samples and compiled them into rhythms and melodies. Quality of sound is intrinsic in all of the objects. It's up to the artist to find it and the listener to hear it. For some people it may require a radical

shift in their perception.

This is going to be stuck in my head all day.

I wish I could hear his without the laughter in the background. It's John Cage, there's likely a recording somewhere.

THAT PUBLIC OF SHIT! This is a real music; is a personal language of Cage, and must be respect. Cage yet, could have played this pieces without that the public see him.

How could anyone not love John Cage, his performances are so witty, humorous and yet very artistic in the meaning. I totally agree with Jaydoggy531

@flamesout This is not abstract. It is absolutely the contrary of being abstract. Every melody every note is more abstract.

I love it when he just pushes the radios off the tables, completely straight-faced. This style of music is so cool

@RexMundi71 you can't "sit through boredom", boredom is your creation. stop making boredom. as for snobbery, again, that seems to be you in this case as well.

@ibilldavis everything is music, that's the concept

I don't get it

He is so Abstract! This is Art

"What's My Line" , I think, seems to be the show

this is both hugely entertaining and innovative at the same time.

patetica la gente eh??

How was this controversial?

@Chuichupachichi What about many

percussion instruments? By your definition, said instruments don't produce music. Consider this quote... "By all accounts there is no single and intercultural universal concept defining what music might be, except that it is 'sound through time'." Food for thought

Ahhh the truly Great ol days when reality tv shows were actually interesting (aka not paris hilton judging her friends based on how many people they can pick up at only the most slutty-spoiled-snobby-whorish-err i mean upperclass bars)

I don't think he was understood they were laughing at him

er kanns halt!

@yourtunesfuckinsuck Oh yeah, you / hate/ music snobbery. You obviously resent having a self-concept, too.

Just kidding... I really wanted to mute all

idiots laughing... bunch of ignorants

anybody know where i can find the score for this?

I cant hear the rubber duck :C

I always imagine a 19 year old Frank Zappa watching this on TV and loving it.

@Simon0 True... true...

@Simon0 How is it that someone who can sit through boredom and asinine ridiculous snobbery such as Cage a "superior" person? Because they can go from caterpillar to cocoon until the boredom stops? Give me a break.

john cage is a genius

hey i just thought of something else. One guy sitting in a room for two hours might get bored. Another guy might go into deep meditation and have a wonderful experience. The meditator is the superior person. This is the same with these kind of sounds.

ha. i've always taugh that he was a really bad composer who was angry because he

wasn't able to write any good music. Now I realize that he was just crazy!!!

@yoboss1049 LOL nice...

@muffinman3670 i meant the audience. and yes, i know 4'33. he made experimental music. i also know that he was a great pianist, too. i could smile during this show, but i thought it was silly to laugh that much..

@kmelalzate No on an interview way back he did say that

study zen buddhism for a bit and you might start to see where JC is coming from. or you may not, who knows..

Try listening to the music without the video. It sounds AWESOME.

Exposure. No matter how brilliant or avant garde he was, he still needs it.

@Muffinman3670 , you are a complete AsssssssHoleeee

@Jaydoggy531 spot on. everything is an instrument! 4'33" taught listeners that (or tried to) as well.

The host could have just as easily said "Dont laugh.. Laughter is not permitted. Be quiet and listen."

I can't believe he wrote this with only common house hold items

@Muffinman3670 stupidity is usually relative. If I am not wrong, you seem to make a strong case against that idea.

LOL at the Winston product placement

DON'T LAUGH, DAMMIT

@HotnessTim What about "music" in a 4/7 beat? "Music" not classifiable.

This is a great piece. The laughter kind of bothers me...

Banging tune, surprised there hasn't been a remix.

Amazing - thankyou so much for uploading this. Wow. What a moment .

This is the very definition of 'pearls before swine'.

dumbest shit ever! if i was in the audience, i would've punched him in the face, then taken a dump on his chest.

John Cage expected (and encouraged) the laughter. He knew what he was doing was visually strange and the sounds were also pretty comical (and still are). He then transforms the audience themselves

into an instrument since it is random and unpredictable; something that Cage found essential in audio art. Cage had a big sense of humor. He hated music snobbery.

It would appear that John Cage is the creator of the worlds largest musical instrument... an entire bathtub being merely one of its parts However, I personally opine that his instrument would have benefited much from further development in pursuing a greater quality of sound or quality of tone Nearly every object in existence will produce sound in one way or another... hit, tapped, dropped etc. The sound must be a particular tone, identifiable by musical notation

..its like a soundtrack to the visual actions.. actually entertaining..hearing it without the performance would be pretty interesting too..tryin to image what he's doing to make those sounds..

FUCKING NOISE! i would laugh at him too
Meh, 4'33" had a lot more virtuosity.

He definitely gives the impression of being a good sport.

@submb No he makes music to primarily

get on peoples nerves he even wrights the music like it sounds so if you tried to play a song that we all know it would not be like the normal sheet music with the notes and stuff it would be something like circles and weird lines that make no sense except to him. Hes even made a song called 4 min and 33 sec they dont play at all for 4 min and 33 sec its stupid but people like it.

do they think it is a kind of comedy show?
please tell me that this is not considered music!

Man, every sound is placed exactly where it belongs! I bet Cage knew that everyone back then would listen this as comedy (some still do), but he preferred that in order to pass a message beyond his time.

@Ematched 4.33 is a very different piece to Water Walk, Water Walk is much more a performance piece.

laughter is found sonic art that is timed and after watching this it will never sound the same to me ever again.

@Chuichupachichi There *is* quality to the sound of those radios crashing. Because of

their individual construction, they will each produce a different sound on impact. Much like any percussion instrument. That's how he used them - he hit them and they all produced a different sound. Then he sent them to the floor and they again produced different sounds than they did previously. They acted as perfect instruments. Music does equal the absence of discord.

Too cool for words.

@happyface4444 Cage did have sheet music for his performances, even the imaginary landscape pieces using radios. Non-traditional doesn't connote non-musical.

Thus, the sound can be correctly used within a musical composition. Therefore, what the controversy regarding John Cage comes down to, is that there is a particular reason why instruments such as violin, flute, French Horn amongst others, were created with precisely their particular form. That reason is because they produce sound with a great degree of "quality" in its tonality
Ridiculous fucking bullshit. This guy is a

complete moron. The only thing dumber than him is his 2 braindead fans.

the bike wheels one? yeah, zappa was very influenced by the abstract music scene.

The determiner of "quality" being the application for which the sound is produced. In this case, music, for which is desired sounds that are pleasing to the human ear when used for that purpose The sound of radios crashing against the ground, may have a particular tone (A B C D E F or G - b or #) but musically speaking, its not a sound having quality. From this is the controversy derived because Cage, as a music authority, was calling it "music"

i cant believe they are laughing at him. this ambient music is really cool

Also, lulz@ the Winston cigarette ad on the desk.

Why I hear the public's laugh?

It's not work, it's not music, he's a pretentious cocksucking bitch asshole. The only thing worse than him is the moronic snobby bitches like you that elevate him above the level of a bum that likes to bang on shit.

the laugh of ignorance.

would have enjoyed it more without the
laughter

amen

just because you don't appreciate someones
work doesn't mean it's ok to call them a
moron. way to be.

GENIOUS.

Laughs are fine. Why take this so seriously
? It also shows hpw fifties gently popularized
many ideas from pre-war avant-guardes, as
Cage is just aplying here what had been
formulated by Marinetti 50 years earlier.
Good absurd fun - i laughed a lot !

lit's truly frightening how incensed people
can get! how quick to anger!. I hope it's a
bunch of immature teens feeling the need to
assert themselves, or adults afraid of what
is different, hiding behind the anonymity of
the web. Because if these are sober adults,
rallying there opinions with such openly
disgusting thought and language, history,
if it does remember these peoples opinions
at all, will surely judge them much harsher
then anything! they think it will do, of Mr.

Cages music!

I'm going to be clear and don't get me wrong, Cage idea and concept of music was very original, but the music he composed was not genius. He's "music" is based on sounds you hear everyday, so would you call a dog barking music?, or maybe a door shutting down?, well inside Cage's mind all this was music. According to him everything is music!, but then what is the difference between sound and music?

Johnny Cage! FATALITY.

@Ematched Where are you deducting your assumptions from?

balls balls balls. i love balls

What have I done that people will be studying and debating 50 years after the fact? I've farted into a microphone, that's about the same level of sophistication that Cage's "work" deserves--it's just that I never had the intellectual/artistic snobbery to expect it to demand attention like this douchebag does. Go fuck yourself you pseudo-intellectual moronic cumstain.

to much talkin...

lol the whiskey and seltzer, I love john cage, he was soo awesome.

ditto everything you said....Jaydoggy531!

You just take music too seriously. You care too much about the 'rules' of art, but they are really only a definition of what is generally known to work, based on observation of that which was tried before those rules existed. You can't rationalize music, not that much. If it sounds good, it is good. And this sounds interesting, quirky, outrageously silly. These are all positive things.

this is beautiful

Don't be silly. It's all about context. HE IS IN A TV GAME SHOW.

It shouldn't bother you - because Cage intended and expected that laughter to be there... I compare it to a composer writing a bel canto piece and expecting unwritten ornamentations from the performers.

This is so similar to Frank Zappa's appearance on The Tonight Show. It's on here someplace.

It's condescending and unproductive comments like that which pushed audiences

out of concert halls. John cage was expecting the audience to laugh, in fact he encouraged it. it is random, and always different, and that in itself is audio beauty. I'm a big fan of Cage but really you have to keep in mind this was completely unexpected and very absurd. Of course they'd laugh at something so different and alien. Cage didn't consider himself as "above" the public, and was clear on that point.

"jurisdictional" dispute between 2 unions arguing over who plugs in a radio. This was when unions were at the peak of their power and were just beginning to destroy themselves and US business.

holy Shit, Cage is so young in this!

I understand what you are saying. I listen to Topsy, a band that makes some of the wierdest music I've ever heard. Their song, "Hey!" is on a DDR game. The difference between John Cage and Topsy is, topsy has a tune. There is as much a tune here as going and sitting in a busy kitchen at a restaurant for a whole night and listening.

I dunno. It's music but it's still pretty funny.

I feel that his noise follows the definition of music, but is about as much music as if you threw a bucket of paint into the air and when it was in mid flight that it would be called a painting. If his works are music then everything is music. I feel like music needs some type of tempo and key. You need to have sheet music for it. Now you can disagree with me, but that's why John Cage was a genius, I disagree with him, but he did change its idea forever.

81 people were in the audience laughing.

"But with the deft skill with which it is executed"? Dude, you must be out of your mind. The only thing difficult about the execution is remembering what to do, which is a basic task that anyone could do.

I've changed my mind since the last comment. This is music but it's just really bad music(in my opinion) if I can't recognize it as music from hearing it than its not good music.

Whilst lots of people like John Cage I highly think he should've gone into comedy instead...

scarily in front of his time....

Your art is bad and you should feel bad
this piece is gorgeous. it makes me sad to
hear the audience laugh the way they do in
this video at such a work of sonic art. but
that's generally what you have to expect out
of the public

But there's a lot you can ask when it comes
to defining an "author's intent". Cage tried to
ask what it means to have an intention with
the process at all.

Music is more than sound, it is when a thing,
anything, sings. A fridge can sing, a chess
board can sing, crickets, etc... It's not just
when something makes noise, there has to
be an author's intent in the manipulation of
sound for it to be in song form. What John
Cage lacks in his time is sociability and
communication, which is limited to a strange
audience.

Because Zappa was inspired by John Cage
and not the contrary.

John Cage was indeed quite the visionary.
He was a very smart man with very original
music. I am impressed by this.

Maybe in early 60's it was difficult to understand and enjoy the magnificent Cage's ideas, but laughing about it I think very uneducated and depreciative.

Can't say anything that hasn't already been said. The laughter is intended, the quirk is (was) a "what do you think of this" experimentation, and all in his body of work follows this theme, save for several pieces he's released which show he does have the "musical credibility" some have claimed he lacks.

Beck's grandfather Al Hansen(Fluxus artist) was a colleague of John's(also a Fluxus artist), is it any wonder Beck is the creative entity he is with an eclectic pedigree as such. Shame all the best Cage footage has been yanked from YT... Many thanks for posting this gem... I adore this man and his audaciously beautiful legacy

add a beat and you got minimal techno

Eso no es romanticismo, ni se le acerca, ser? m?sica program?tica, intentar? transmitir una idea... Pero no puede estar m?s lejos, es modernista, contempor?nea, m?sica del

siglo XX... Algo que realmente me molestó mucho en este video es la gente riéndose... El pobre tipo está seriamente interpretando su música y la gente se le ríe. Puede resultar extraño, puede no coincidir con el concepto de música de muchos, pero es de verdad una falta de respeto reírse así.

I have nothing personally against him. Frank Zappa did similarly strange things on stage around this time. Yet Cage gets more praise in academia...because he was an accredited teacher himself? It's music technology, experimentation, but where does it suddenly become more intellectually admirable to be a fan of Cage than Zappa or someone like...Jerry Garcia? Edison found thousands of ways not to make a lightbulb, but didn't achieve fame by experiments. Eventually he found a filament of value

Anything better to say? What do you mean "better"? Better than pointing out the illogical nature of your comments? Either accept that this is music, or change your "argument" which has been shown to be incorrect. You could even provide a

counterargument if you wish.

Hermeto Pascoal americano

Great observation!

@ThatSalvadoreanGuy Humor is created when one is subjected to the happily unexpected, and thus this act, whether he intended it or not, was hilarious. Just as a good punch line is always one you didn't see coming, not a single movement in this entire performance could be predicted or fully explained. The audience was laughing because this act had all the workings of something brilliantly funny, and was delivered so dryly and seriously that it intensified this tenfold.

WISE

I love how he broke through barriers. He had the audience in such a state of anticipation that they laughed as he routinely took a sip of water. Brilliant. Cage had a spooky voice. If the experimental music didn't work out he could have made a good living filling in for Vincent Price :)

Someone make the audience shut the fuck up.

Realmente me dejo impresionado John Cage, pero no entiendo de qu? se rie la gente... acaso creen que Cage les gasta una broma?

@homerosalazar No te confund?s, no es la evoluci?n. Es otra forma de hacer m?sica, simplemente.

Yes, it was ambient and experimental, and maybe even interesting. But to call someone a moron for laughing when a guy waters a plant and pushes a radio off a desk (and calls it music), I find that far more offensive. They weren't there to see a John Cage performance, they were there to see the filming of a tv show. Be careful about prancing around on a high horse, it means you have further to fall.

I couldn't hear the radios. I'm sure that that wouldn't matter so much to Cage, but I wanted the full intended effect. I'm sure that the audience laughter is also a part of the piece for Cage, but again, I'd still like to hear more of his sound as opposed to the audience reaction. Great pastiche of 50's United States culture. The host does a great

job of both respecting Cage and preparing his audience. Awesome video.

The man was a pioneer. But that doesn't make him any good.

it is magic.

Not bad, but you need to get some sort of video editing software and cut out everything before about 5:40 and also the short bit after the performance with the "What's My Line?" logo.

No, Musique Concrete is a recorded medium, of basic manipulation limited by what you can do by cutting and re-arranging tape. This is more composition if anything. listen to the morons in the crowd laughing. i thought this was VERY interesting, very ambient, very experimental. john cage is clearly a pioneer of noise music

Both with and without the video, this performance is art at its "freshest" and most alive. It's wonderful to be reminded how music embarked on the journey which led to the present landscape's artistic choice and diversity. Thank you for posting Mr Cage at his most normal, uncaged.

dreadful very disappointing
BRILLIANTBRILLIANTBRILLIANT!!!! So
innovative, like magic!

So for all the people saying “oh listen to those morons in the audience laugh...” you should really think about this performance more critically. John Cage is praised as a revolutionary and given so much hype by the scholarly community, yet the average listener who laughs or protests to this (the indisputable vast majority of people), is not given ANY consideration. Just keep these thoughts in the back of your head when you go to see another “contemporary” or “new” classical work.

Cage was expecting, if not encouraging the people to laugh.

Me pregunto que pensaba el joven John al escuchar las risas.. Aunque probablemente tambi?n se reirian ahora..

Listen, I hate to upset the scholars who sit atop their high-horses, but this is NOT music. People who are educated in music very often give too much hype to this “noise” (which John Cage called it himself). The

idea is crazy not because it's revolutionary and not because it's shocking, necessarily, but crazy because it SOUNDS BAD. Music, at least for the vast majority of people throughout history, is harmonious and melodious sounds which are good -- NOT disconnected and/or jarring noise.

Sublime, and it sounds great..

I saw John Cage "in concert" at Beaver College (now Arcadia) in the Philadelphia area. He was a very unusual musician, and it was a quite memorable experience. The audience was sometimes respectful, but sometimes they'd heckle him (probably in some ways deservedly so.) Very cool to see this video on YouTube.

I'm so addicted to this!

This is sound certainly. I wouldn't call it music. There's no rhythm, melody, harmony, it's just a hack trying to do something so stupid it can be called "controversial"

I would've given anything to see that performance. If that audience had any idea who John Cage was or the impact he'd have on music...

I think the show was quite amusing.

i dont understand XD ㄟ.ㄟ'

this is more pretense than music...

very interesting.

Perfectly natural reactions, considering how different this is from what most people think as music.

Noise music is the continuation of the decomposition of music. There is hardly any other creative way to go. Any other way has been done before. All music has been done already, and now even noise has been done. So either you can appreciate the fact that people like John Cage are being creative instead of doing the same things or you can create a brand new type of music.

how could they laugh at his music!! just hear it...deeper...you'll find something more could this be called musique concrète?

It is music....technically

This guy is doing the basics for convenience music. Do u like Björk? Do u like Tom Waits? Do they music? Is Jazz music? Turn on MTV and be quiet!

Define Music.

They don't understand, but they don't have to. People who are laughing are enjoying him, people who demean him don't deserve him.

You are wrong. Even Schoenberg said that we have yet to graze the surface of pieces which can be written in the key of C. Everything is a continuation or reaction to the past. Some composers are inspired by the past, some are against it. But there is one thing for certain: It is a patronizing attitude like yours which has pushed the audience away from art. This is a wonderful piece, and so are pieces which you consider "old." Music is the art of sound, Cage said so himself.

The laughter actually gives it a more horrifying feel. It's absolutely absurd and wonderful.

@zooland12 Can you say what music is? Can you say what music is not? Are you able to say that the sound of my fingers touching the letters on the keyboard of my computer while I write this is not music??

@jongun Zappa performed that bicycle

spoke piece on an old Steve Allan--"Tonight Show" or something. And yeah, it's great.

Well...this IS pretty far out. He was well aware that people would laugh, because he was a highly intelligent individual (and probably a genius (whatever that is)), and to him that must surely have been part of the music. It's an incredible clip, and music history in the making.

Must have been expensive to rehearse...

sallantida.

@UnforgivingCritic i agree - he redefines it and it is, i suppose, revolutionary. But not all revolutions are not necessarily a good thing all the time...

there is no art here. he is no more brilliant than a baby playing with his/her toys. this was cool when it was first done. but composers today insist on writing aleatoric shit music that doesn't require a second thought. there is no structure. nothing. i hate his work variations 3 more than anything. variations on what? sound? oh wow real deep. music is sound organized. the mind naturally wants to find patterns and structure. i bet you he

can't write a real theme and variations of it.
This game show had a live audience for every guest and they would react as such. Audience participation and presence was also more present then.

hahaha you don't understand the idea of the song, or better yet contemporary classical. Many people don't realize that the laughter is actually a part of the performance. Cage doesn't distinguish between the performer, the instruments and the audience, nor does he acknowledge himself as a willful composer. Music is simply something that "happens".

Music is best when it's fun.

pretty interesting piece. The amount of work hes put into this would be incredible.

if this seems strange for us, imagine how weird ppl thought this was in 1960

What the fuck are they laughing at?

old times :)

si... llega al webó PQ CARAJOS SE RIEN??? ME HINCHA LAS PELOTAS

Probably didn't invent the power strip yet...

:p

When i saw that first i was confused. Now, after one year, I hear a sense in all those sounds. I listend definitely to much of björks music! Oh hes such a god to me
I'm confused about this dispute about the radios... yet the tape recorder was plugged in? Ah well, still an amazing piece.
Because at this time, this was absurd. Now we obviously appreciate it a little more.
Laughter can actually be a sign of discomfort.

. .
@FantomPenguin , I agree -- John Cage does sound like Vincent Price!

Well, it's definitely not my kind of art. I like it more down to earth...

The way the business worked back then was so smooth, and I can't help but admire the initial banter between the show-host and the band-head, about whether or not they should skip the game, whether or not it would matter (they both knew it wouldn't have). Seeing both worlds (extreme, cutting-edge science, and the business of early-American TV entertainment) entwined was a real treat that I don't think anyone

watching this video would have otherwise
have been able to bear witness to.

i did not realize that. Holy, that's complex.
So no matter what you compose, there is the
unpredictable response from the audience,
or whatever else is about and chiming in.
I like that. Much like theatre actors must
be prepared to adjust everything on the fly
in response to what their audience does.
Cool!!! Thank you for the ed, Jaydoggy531.
Yooooooooooooo

True, but then that would mean Cage's true
symphony is when he snores or scratches
his head. Its hard to escape intent.
He was way ahead of his time.

GiANT...

JOHNNY CAGE NOT AFRAID TO DIE

I would add that Cage took a delight in
sound that went beyond that of the Dadaists
I can think of, for whom sound was merely
one among a number of available media,
and whose sound work was less "about"
sound. Right now I can hear half a dozen
police sirens and a woodpecker.
White people sure do have rhythm.

I wish I lived in the late 50's early 60's...
Cigarette advertising and an honest
explanation of a union conflict!

My dad saw this piece performed live at
Lincoln Center conducted/supervised by
Robert Craft (i think). Apparently some guy
stood up in the middle of the performance
and yelled "This isn't music! This is shit!"
and stormed out. I don't agree, but still
pretty funny.

NINPUNMARWAHA: The point isn't
that much of a revelation... Cage openly
acknowledged the dadaists, and after all his
favorite composer was Satie? You can only
really apply this tag also to his work in the
late 50's - 60's... prior to this and later his
work is quite different. I love this video as
it highlights Cage's sense of humor which
is often ignored by many commentators
writing about him after his death.

-0-_-0-

Superior!

-.-

OUR PANEL IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY
WINSTON. IN CASE YOU DIDNT KNOW

You can't stand the best part about the music?

If you have studied music intensely, then you will understand when I say that I accept your opinion (as an opinion) but feel free to hold the right to having my own interpretation of what music is. If you don't, feel free to carry on an argument without me. Contention never solved anything.

JOHN CAGE WINS FLAWLESS VICTORY

I think you're onto something

@MrRiisLarsen Why do you want music to be taken so seriously? Your notion of serious music is one that has been around since Beethoven. I think it's about time that a cultural change of that order takes place. There's enough seriousness in this love-forsaken world. John Cage and others have put the 'play' back in music, by being playful and doing something odd for your and others' amusement. And that notion is the portion of his genius for which I am thankful. still ahead of the curve

Well, to John's ears it wasn't either. He didn't want music to be music. He wanted it to be

sound. Just sound.

The constant laughter kind of ruins this, nobody in the audience understands or appreciates what he is doing, it's not supposed to be a comedy skit.

creativity. it is amazing what big things you can do with so little. If the people now a days thought more like him, maybe everyone would see just how creative we all are!

Where's the split punch to the groin? And the shades? This must've been before MK that was fucking awesome.

oh! babies make those noises in the bath? i think we might have another mozart!...er.... nevermind.....that's just another john cage.
"sigh"

he sounds like John Malcovich

I wouldn't call it music. But it is certainly amusing... and calculated, in its own odd way.

Bless John Cage. Incredible guy.

does anyone have the video of john cage playing on italian tv in 1958? he attended a popular quiz show ("lascia o raddoppia?") as a mushroom expert (!) and even won some

5 million italian lire (a significant sum at that time!). he also performed his "concert for coffee machines", astonishing the audience and the tv host...

this is so awesome

MORTAL KOMBAT!!!

so cool!

i love john cage but couldnt help thinking of tommy cooper-such a laugh! please check out headhit light works christ of the abyss-experimental music is alive and kicking.

i love john cage!!! my favorite...4,33;-)

knowing cage he was tripping balls on mushrooms

Potent and timeless. Pure genius.

that would have been worthwhile.

booyah

I think you couldn't be more right! It takes a genius to recognize a genius. Mr. Cage was all alone that night! Thank you for this wonderful contribution!

father of industrial music

@bassman1993 You and your farts definitely wouldn't make the spectators laugh as much or leave them applauding at

all, but go ahead, enjoy yourself in any way that suits you!

Didn't they laugh at all our greatest genius? I think they took it rather well considering the time and place. I can definitely see some audiences today reacting a lot worse, don't you?

the most stupid in most cases is the audience

I am american so there is a need to defend them. I'm assuming you live in turkey which is fine. I don't think America is number one or anything but its as good as a place as most other countries. The reason those "stupid" americans laughed is because some stuff he did was funny. This is coming from a huge John Cage fan.

c'est effectivement un problème entre l'émetteur et le récepteur

This is a percussion piece, and a very complex one at that. Sometimes if you see percussionists even in "traditional" music and instruments you can see quite a show as they run around to different instruments. Most orchestras have three percussionists

(not including the timpanist). The visual aspect of this just happens to be the fact he's the sole performer of so many instruments - as all who's needed is just one person. So I wouldn't call this a conceptual art piece.

so what do u expect them to react today?

What was it Krishnamurti said...Well, I'll say it my way...you're either part of creation, or sabotaging it. Cage's music is asking us to become present. So I imagine the subterfuge is bypassing our conscious process that takes the present and turns it into the past, as memory. Bypass thought completely.

... defeND

it was a 1950s game show studio audience, how they hell would you expect them to react?

no i expect you to not judge them by the standards of today, where everyone is super hip and serious and would sit and nod and scratch their chins at the oh so serious john cage as he pushes radios off a table.

Concepts. They couldnt understand the concept. WAY too ahead of its time!

I expected a very bad response from the audience, but actually the laughter plus applause, I think, it was much more that he could expect, I'm delighted with this reactions, and as some other commented here, he made them part of the show. I'm not a fan of his music, but I deeply respect him for his experimentations

so you are not from the idiot ones. you are a nice american and also a modern music lover. that s good for you to know that many idiots live in america.

i've never seen this before, but it's great. every day events and sounds are music! and the bit with the radios is priceless. too bad this piece isn't performed more often.

This is some next-level shit.

I think, like most of Cage's music, it's better if you're not watching. It's about the sound. I think the visuals are distracting.

I can't stand the audience laughing
es un genio y la maldita gente se ríe

JEROME V PLAYS A MEAN GUITAR

Awesome! The pushed radio precludes the smashed guitar(townshend OR Hendrix) by

at least a few years...beautiful!

im from the uk but you dont need to say idiot americans =/ just say idiots coz. people could take it as offensive.

Music will become as radical as the world allows it to be. In this case, it's gone a long, long way...

lol, I think you're the idiot.

The might say that figuratively, but isn't art always a form of communication?

Why I always liked Gary Moore

Oh for the days when this would be shown in prime time television.

the first chuckle from the audience sounded like it could have been included in the composition

Understandable humor.

1... the godfather of electronic music.. 2.... sponsored by winston.. loooooooooool

i think thats a very valid point, and although cage would not call himself a conceptual artist, he would probably be inclined to agree with you

oh and BTW i was not disagreeing that they are idiots. i hate that their laughing also.

because its actually amazing but the cant see beyond the “amusing” originality of it. but then again its just what audiences do... the laugh when their suppose to.. to make good tv. but i hope the thought back to it, appreciating it

Charming man, brilliant thinker, a delight.

I'd say he was more of a composer than a musician. Either way you choose to see it, he made music and he kept a specific time for everything he did and produced notes, so even if quite visual, his work was musical. Here's my opinion on Cage What Cage performed was a conceptual art piece not a musical piece, because the audience's reaction to it was both hearing and seeing. A musical piece's results are almost 90 per cent hearing. Sure we see the performer or the band with the instruments but the effect is not from the way they play but the sounds that come from how they play. Therefore in my opinion Cage is more of a conceptual artist than a musician. And a very original one at that!

'if you like this kind of music you are a

communist'- bill o reilly

fantastico

what a clown...

@happyface4444 some of the greatest musicians and artists out there cant even read or write. music (to me) is about feeling and interpreting vibrations in the air with your ears as if they were eyes seeing an event and widening in amazement. regular tempos and common arrangements have become the cornerstone for "music" today because it is humanity's greatest form of communication. it must be simple in order for many of us to understand and enjoy it. sad really that its all so generic nowadays

Ok... perhaps it was also some humoristic feature... but in his humor i feel he was very serious. Wonder what people felt at that moment. Crowd seems enthusiastic though... :)

Wow, that host seemed like an asshole

I will not write a public comment since I have to quote every single word of you abt John Cage!

You're a very open-minded person.

That's truly great and especially useful for someone in the arts. Cage's works are truly inspirational. I suggest you buy the album "Indeterminacy". It's poetry.

there's a huge grey area between the terms "experimental musician" and "sound artist" i think cage was both

Wow... this is sort of like Philip Glass appearing on "American Idol" (except that Glass is about 100 times more mainstream than Cage was in 1960). Try finding anything like that on TV today. I love how Cage was so matter-of-fact about his music. He doesn't look down on the audience. I bet he enjoyed performing for an audience that could experience his music with a certain innocence, unlike the jaded academics he was probably more used to.

I wouldn't say he was treated as a freak. His style of music was back then completely unconventional and he really was a controversial figure. A lot of people today still disagree with what he creates is called "music" and is still considered "weird." And in reality the mannerisms back then were

different so if you were referring to how they spoke about his work they were just being quite clear for the audience who are also probably thinking what on earth did he just say?!

Sorry for the multiple comments/comments that don't flow well together. I had something better typed up, but I couldn't post it! Under the character limit too, weird...

Definitions have to agree with a) past use of the word and b) common conception of a word. Cage's definition was a radical break, and many people today don't see music as just organized noise. So please, how is your definition "reality"?

Wait, what *is* the reality? Is Cage's definition of "music" somehow objectively true?

I think you're the one missing the point, man. Ignoring the humor inherent in the piece is as blind as denying the art. Did you hear the applause?

Sure, YOU can define it however you want. It doesn't change the reality.

hehehe. Okay, so on the one hand if

anyone sees something as music, I'm not allowed to disagree because everyone's point of view is sacred, but on the other hand you can make as strong a value judgement as to say that I'm "regressive" and "small-minded" because I don't think this stuff is music. My God, man, make up your mind! Anyway, your answer isn't very satisfying. Your definition of music is reality simply because *anyone* sees music as just sound? What? Isn't my definition reality, too?

MMMMmmm....Winston Cigarettes.

I sure as hell can say it's not music. What, you're going to tell me how I can and can't define a term? Get real :P

Talk about casting pearls before swine. That audience didn't have a clue. Close your eyes and listen to it and it's wonderful.

i just learned about this man today in piano class, when one of the students chose to play his piece four minuets thirty three seconds. i was one of about 3 who enjoyed the piece, the other students were rather befuddled as to why that was music. the teacher couldn't

help but to snicker for all four minuets lol.
i look foward to exploring his works, and
listning to interviews of his. he has changed
my perception of music after just hearing 2
of his pieces =-p. what an amasing man!

I like the laughter... I wonder if it was the
actual live in-studio laughter or if they were
cueing up a laugh track...

great musician... i love his music

@ihateemail5 have you took a second to
listen to his works ? This is a critic about
music as it was in the arts at this moment.
Moreover, he was able to play piano very
well. As Picasso who was able to do standard
art very well, he tried everything else. From
another point, sounds and music are create
and appreciate by humans. The music is in
the head of the one who's listening. I hear
more music in Water Walk than I will never
hear at the radio. Sorry for my bad english
"the most controversial figure in the musical
world at that time." GIVE ME A BREAK!
NOT!

he was ahead of his time :o

very odd, but still he's right, music is such

a thing that can only be defined by the individual, such as quality...

Only if the listener recorded it and presented it to someone else as music. There has to be an artist and an audience. You don't look at a beautiful sunset and call it a painting, do you?

music is made up of sounds. noise is made up of sounds. therefore, noise can be music. that simple...

wow la influencia de Jasper Johns!

Thank you so much for posting this. 5 starts to the brilliant Mr. Cage - No starts for unions.

he makes you realize that items such as a bathtub, a blender, a pot, radio etc (items we use everyday) are funny when they are used out of context. like as if i wish to cook something in the oven instead i randomly play my violin. that is what makes it clever. and lets not forget he does not leave musical instruments out of this entirely. he does give us a grand piano and 2 cymbals. yes the laughter does help the work. would have liked to hear the radio's as well. very clever

i must say! no lie!

more that music, this is like a sociological experiment. i just cant call this music, cuz simply anyone could go and do any shit and say it's music, and that's not the logic of art. may be he is a genius, u can call him a ginus, or whatever, but this is not music.

o.o p.p

Music is an organization of sounds. expression of beauty, sublimity, etc. is extra. It is not what defines music but what defines what music is good (to you). Any sound can be music to someone. This does not mean it is GOOD music to your personal ears, but you cannot say it is not music.

A huge inspiration to rubber ducky players everywhere.

genious. hurray for contemporary chance music!

Deranged

Well said. People put this man up with the great composers to make themselves feel less inadequate.

But don't some call a beautiful sunset a 'work of art'?

Non capisco se la gente lo prende come comico, oppure lui faccia il comico...

hahah, It's a playful piece, it made me smile too.

wheres batman

pony snob?

Cage provided the music for Merce Cunningham's dance troop in the 80's, beautiful and transcendent. He In the orchestra pit with a stack of cassette players, looped tapes and piano. I miss them both. creepy.

Except music is the organization of noise. That is precisely what that was, organized noise. Everything he did was deliberate. This IS music he was a serious composer. You are right on that... The music of this days is mostly crap.

I understand what you mean, but I would rather listen to that than the rubbish you hear on day time radio.

a man ahead of his time

I fully endorse this comment, on so many levels.

i don't think that's what was intended at all

and I don't think anyone studying music history is that interested in Britney Spears or whatever other lame cliché you have to throw out there. Cage died in '92, so how about MC Hammer or something? Why do people laugh? ?__?

I understand Cage as a conceptual artist, and I can enjoy his stuff as art, but to call it "music" is waaaay out of what I can assimilate.

love it...

Well, it's not supposed to be funny, it's unintentionally funny. That's what's great about it. You see, he comes on stage pretending to be a serious composer, somehow following vaguely in the tradition of classical music, of Beethoven, Brahms, and Bruckner, but he's not making music, he's just being ridiculous. There is so much excess here, so much of the ridiculous, and so little music, while the whole thing is framed in the context of seriousness, it's no surprise we find it amusing.

this is brilliant!

This sounds like a David Lynch film without

the visuals. I mean that in a good way. Five stars!

Because in those days people were used to mostly nothing and very very very conditioned about what is music and what is not.

And what's our standard of the quality of music? How well it's organized? If that is our standard, or if we have no good standard at all, then it doesn't take much to be a serious composer. But if music is about the ability to express beauty, or sublimity, or to move men, and to be not just noise but noise with *meaning*, then this is certainly no serious composition. I cannot fathom the mind that will find this more enjoyable or moving to listen to than any symphony of the old masters.

"I consider laughter better than tears..."

I almost didn't post this because before my comment, we were at exactly 433 comments. But someone had to be #434... jajaja good and interesting comment.

I was asking me the same question... it's not supposed to be funny...

I recall on “Sgt. Pepper” and “White Album” is some “Cage”-ean music. Must look for the parts.

This is great. Cage has a wry wit--he's completely serious about his music, but he knows there will be laughter, and he lets that be part of the performance. I notice also--he didn't look at the music once. He had the whole thing memorized.

probably the most publicity the genre has ever received.

This proves that opposite of music is silence. Not noise.

Imaooo i really dont and after 2 weeks i still think this is not cool..... im slow maybe that what it is lol jk

very unusual, i love it, awesome.

lol ok thanks ill watch them

He's such a G

The folly of post-modernism and relying on unions to... just... plug... something...in!

Try to understand this piece within the context of the times. However, many of his other pieces are less exhibitionist and easier to take seriously. I can honestly recommend

his sonatas and interludes as a good place to begin.

lol thats so weird myl... music teacher told my clas to listen to him and i still kinda dont understand why..... but anyways NICE job man

awesme

I wouldn't go that far. Cage definitely had a sense of humor, and a lot of his pieces, although they were intended to be "taken seriously" certainly conveyed that sense of humor. I think laughter is a perfectly reasonable response to his work, and shouldn't necessarily be taken as disrespect. "I consider laughter preferable to tears."

Don't forget, Cage regarded all sounds as part of the performance, even the laughter of the audience. They were part of the moment.

magical to watch and hear. has anyone other than Cage performed this - is it possible?

@ revoltz7 Rob D sampled 'Clubbed to Death' from the "Enigma" Variations' by Elgar.... probably his best known work. Rob D is good at what he does (the simple

repetition you speak of) by gathering from various and seemingly unmatchable sources. It's just sound. Cage was the first to remind us that music is just sound, and it doesn't have to mean anything... it doesn't have to fit towards some standard.

Reminds me at times to the intro of Nagasaki Nightmare by Crass. I've been wanting to listen to Cage for a while, but never thought to look on YouTube. I don't know why that just dawned on me tonight. Pretty interesting.

why they laugh?!stupid ppl.. he rules
I'm not sure exactly why, but I seriously despise John Cage and his "musical" performances of 4'33" and Water Walk.

My mouth can't shut right now. All I can do is type... wow! I just heard about this guy and this is the first video I saw of him. My God, how brilliant.

I care what tvfreakman's opinion is! although you will counter-argue by stating that no one will care about what I just said

@mitchmc Yo no entiendo espanol.....
things

this surpasses everything ive seen on commercial television today

If you want to see a film based upon the rythms and the song "imaginery landscape 1 of J. Cage, have a look on my film [FREE?LANGUAGE-STORY#1](#)

This video is great. Thanks! I think the laughter adds a nice haunting quality to the music. His improve on his own work by hitting the radios Q's the audience instead of the radio noises. He is a smart man. peace. what's he playing on the piano, just curious? Is interesting to see how people say "free your heads and your minds" but all the comments of people that didnt enjoy this video have been ranked as poor comments and as spam. Well they are free to feel and think anyway they want. I mean, if john cage was alive, he would like to read ALL the coments. Anyway, the man was a genius its sad to hear people laugh. they are not laughing because they are amused but because they are clueless and ignorant to art and turn to humor as a resort of insecurity "i consider laughter preferable to tears"

--amazing.

I like the fact that the Presenter did not patronise him in anyway, even telling him that some people would laugh. most presenters would have taken great delight in making fun of Cage, especially at this time period. Also interesting, is how Cage is not in the least bit Po faced and seems ready to laugh at himself as well. The music is wonderful especially when you just listen to the clip instead of watching to see what he was doing

Thank you for posting this John Cage is brilliant. I love his concept of music its pure jazz.

What a remarkable man. "I prefer laughter to tears"

Genius! This is pure genius!

yeah, we see from his 4'33"

You might be interested in some forms of ambient music as well. If you liked this as a musical composition, check out the 'A Storm of Drones' compilation. I've always loved Cage's work and am quite a fan of experimental styles and methods of music

because of how he helped break boundaries that previously defined 'music.'

This was awesome !!! I don't know if laughter was what john cage intended to have there but I am impressed. Five stars. Amazing.

Nice!

I think after his comment to the host about how he prefers laughter over crying made everyone think they should laugh.

I don't know who he really was, but he must have been important since his combination of humour and intelligence produced "Lecture of nothing".

This piece should be performed more often

john cage is the un-trollable musician

gotcha! i was just trying to understand where you were coming from. i'm not the judge of considering this as being musical or non-musical... i don't care who digs it or not, as i'm not in a position to care - it's nobody's business. for me, it's inately pointless to attack anyone who does or who does not dig it. to each his own...

Great! Thank you very much for this video. A piece of history that we might slowly start to

grasp the honesty of Mr.Cage over 50 years later? He's so clever.

I am currently reading the book SILENCE and I especially like the ch. Zen and forward from there. I like it because I am on the quest as well and am trying to mitigate dualities. One can always tell how one is progressing by, as Cage says, how bothered we are now about things and people that really use to pester us before. Happy Zen-ing!!

Well I posted that ages ago, but I think it was to illustrate that that person who is supposedly a lover of 'innovation' and 'complexity' obviously isn't, considering the fact that Rob D's Clubbed to death is a mindless commercial m?lange. If you consider this music, you must reconsider! sorry...the below comment was meant as a reply to revolt7's comment: "Anybody who thinks Rob D's clubbed to death (simply 4 notes of the minor scale, repeated, again and again, and again) is a worthy piece of music, is certainly conforming to standards of normality. This is not art. You have been fooled." ...once again, who decides what

is and what isn't art? i don't, and i don't think anyone else should have that kind of authority either.

one word: brilliant

Music is organized sound, and this clearly is organized sound. He must have been an interesting man.

That Gary Moore was amazing. Loved the Gary Moore show, To Tell the Truth, what's my lion...

bloody brilliant. the cigarette advertisement was also particularly entertaining.

Just because it's art doesn't mean it's not funny. Plus Cage was laughing too.

Great video thank you!!!! An amazing piece of history documented here.

been into Cage's work for about as long as I can remember, and I'd have to say that this is one of the most honest performances I've ever seen! he is an extremely intelligent man, and his writings speak for themselves, especially his "Where are we going and what are we doing?", "Lecture on Nothing", and "Lecture on Something." The book SILENCE, along with the recording

“Indeterminacy” (which is really hard to find) w/ Tudor...this did it for me! I've no interest in arguing with anyone here...

Bloody brilliant! :) I wish there was a recording of this without the audience. It'd be interesting to hear. However, I guess the audience laughter could be considered part of the composition as well.... ;)

I think this piece really depends on how you choose to interpret it. I think music is a way of expressing yourself or telling a story, while making the music enjoyable to listen to or experience. Admittedly I found 4'33" quite insane, but I heard his views of it... “I think music is a way of speaking your mind. I have nothing to say, and I am saying it” (or something like that). Although the pieces may not be enjoyable for some ears, I reckon experiencing new things is a good way to mature.

Es una de las mejores performances que he visto en mi vida de música de vanguardia. LA verdad es que John Cage es que ha estado adelantado en muchos aspectos. Los sonidos que se aprecian bien pudieron

ser sampleados en esta época, pero por la tecnología de la época, pues solo tuvo imaginación para hacerlo. Ese pescado en el piano sí que es surrealista. Magnífico documento. ¿Hay más?

I'm thoroughly unimpressed.

@singalongwithtom He might take it from Cage's goal in "4:33" to make the audience aware of the sounds of the music hall, themselves included. Cage undoubtedly knows that people are going to respond, to a degree, with laughter, and he welcomes external sound to the compositions.

see that's what bums me out. I just got into John Cage. Literally like 5 minutes ago. Immediately I know that he is an interesting, unique character, one that I am completely stunned by, interested in, but can also relate to. He seems like a happy man too, it's just a bummer to see people always talking shit in the comments. Like, why you gotta be such snot-nosed babies? It's John Cage, respect the man.

I don't mean this to be dismissive of John Cage's work and genius, but I can't help

but observe that the “jurisdictional dispute” over who gets to plug in 5 radios seems like a remarkably fitting accompaniment to his performance.

wonderful!

Brilliant! To think I spent a day with him in 1967. A very funny man and a total delight. The ‘What’s My Line?’ piece makes me weep with laughter..

To timmymcdee7: Your point is valid, and well thought out. But my question is, what do you value the most in a musical composition? Do you appreciate the structure of the piece, the sound of the piece, the intellectual aspects of the piece,etc...? For me, at least, I like to listen to music to enjoy the sounds and the response that I have to those sounds. To me,a recording of outdoor noise can be as effective as a recording of a Bach fugue; they are all sounds, and all elicit a response. and I noticed the cameraman was waiting for the blender to burst into flames; which brings up the idea of a “John Cage’s Water Walk Gone Wrong” performance- where everything goes wrong, and the stopwatch

is tossed in exasperation... maybe I'd work the two fighting unions in somehow...

Fantasticly ridiculous

I recommend listening to this at 4:50am while you're half asleep- as I just did. It makes you feel like you're submerged in a bathtub, someone is watching a TV sitcom in the next room, there's a little bird outside the window that chirps sporadically, and at one point somebody comes in the bathroom to take a piss. Reminds me of when I used to live at home with my family.

I am just going to state my opinion even though I'm going to be judged poorly because of my opinion. Noise is not music. I am a composer and I appreciate noise. Everyday noises inspire pieces from me and all other great composers. But really good composers take these noises and translate them into musical thoughts. They take noises they hear and create themes and melodies out of cadences and phrases. Add rhythm harmony etc. That is what I think real music is but recreating natural sounds. You get it man... that was like.... UHHFFF.

Very creepy, see when he shows an angry jealous, when John Cage make 'HIS audience' laugh! That people is cruel and perverse. The force is with you Aghily man, Keep on.

and I would add a kitchen sink, just for metaphorical purposes...

The rules of creativity cannot be broken, only bend, or newly discovered.

that was lovely

he played the fine line between fascinating and comedy well- I'm glad he was a good sport... the composition is worth developing further... perhaps with the same 'instruments'... I don't think anyone will ever top the comedy in this performance, however!

what an attentive audience! i like this recording of the piece, the laughter and the hiss of the old-school recording equipment make the piece all the more interesting.

I think in order for music to progress we need to break rules. It's always been done. Breaking out of the classical period's conserved balance led us to romanticism

and then impressionists like Stravinsky revived rhythm... etc. But I think there are lines that shouldn't be crossed. I think music should remain musical and not just a lot of banal everyday noise. Take all these noises and convert them to musical harmonies and rhythms using traditional instrumentation and not objects.

Initially I thought the audience were a bunch of douchebags for laughing, but then when I listened to it a second time, with my eyes closed just listening and not watching him make the sounds, I found that the laughter does add something. I guess it lends a human element.

Wonderful!

this is his own way of showing his music! even if you don't think it's music. I thought it was funny.

I have always wanted to see this video - I heard about it from a composition teacher. It was very funny. Thanks

this comment = epic win thanks for the laughs

omg, he is really timing it what will happen if this

is america's got talent

This reminds me a lot of the musical performance STOMP.

Quite basically.....Dark ambient is influenced by works like this, but employees electronic noises instead of natural noises. This is musique concrete....

i think the laughing is inconsiderate.

So basically he made dark ambient music? his voice reminds me of HAL for 2001: a space odyssey

Bizarre comment. Anybody who thinks Rob D's clubbed to death (simply 4 notes of the minor scale, repeated, again and again, and again) is a worthy piece of music, is certainly conforming to standards of normality. This is not art. You have been fooled.

lol the winston panel.....Too bad they're not on American Idol....I might actually watch the show.

I have recently freelanced at several tv stations. Union rules have not evolved for the better. This would have been so much more fascinating with the radios. Excellent find.

thanks for sharing this awesome video! It was amusing & inspiring at the same time :) totally. I saw Gang of Four last year and they were doing this bit of a song where they'd play a bar and stop for varying lengths of time. On the longest one the guitarist- Andy Gill took out his watch and stared at it. It was funny and it was art.

well the natural reaction is to laugh because there are many elements of comedy in that performance, intended or not. I think he audience reaction is fantastic. you don't have to be po-faced to enjoy it...

Thanks so much for posting it. It's a cliché, but reading 'Silence' changed my life for the better, and this video shows the personality you feel is stamped all over the pages of that book. I love the way he deals with the audience, so calm and so unphased and prepared to just do what he believes in.

this man is a genius. too bad the audience don't get him

the music of cage came out of the fact that he wanted to remove ego from music and make it so that the music - not the artist -

was the only player. I think that was a pretty innovative goal.

Music is just sound and silence organized in such a way that it can be called an art form. There are no ethical boundaries on how it can be done. This is a brilliant little piece and the audience's laughter comes from xenophobia whether they know it or not. This sort of take on music was bound to show up anyways. You can't have Wagner, Wagner, and then another Wagner. C'est impossible.

Brilliant work. Almost programatic, as if he's telling a story in an invented sonic environment.

I can't say he is a musical genius, but he is a whole different level of musical composition. I mean people are just now starting you use unconventional things to make music. The joker's song in the newer batman has razor blades being scratched on guitar strings and contains only two actually notes.

UNA MARAVILLA

Rex- Why are you so angered by a bunch of sounds? If you don't like it, don't listen,

but don't insult the man and those who do understand and appreciate what he's doing. Besides, who the fuck are you to pass judgement on John Cage?! What have you done that people will be studying and debating 50 years after the fact? Hmmm?

very ambient

The laughter was nervous because the audience didn't know how to react but was instructed by the host it was a possibility. Really great stuff.

And... not all of the instrument can make sound by him...

We had that very same blender (Waring) when I was growing up. John Cage was at the cutting edge then, along with abstract expressionist visual artists.

Today, they'd NOT react. Un-reaction is a stupid standard, especially when confronted with the not-so-subtle humor of Cage's dadaist performances. Art can be as funny as you make it out to be; did you ever think that laughter may not be a symptom, but an acknowledgment? Stop taking everything so damn seriously.

he changed the way we discover sounds and produce music. A genius.

I don't like rock n roll.

...which is ALSO awesome.

He's actually almost encouraging the audience to laugh. He's expecting it, and he wants it.

I could not understand rightly the means of the music because the laughs! shit!

Great stuff...

This is so enlightening. It reminds me of Les Six bringing circus music to concert halls. Irony and lightness of touch fraught with meaning and value.

Fabulous Cage. Thank you for posting!

Ahhhh, Cage spends too much time micro-managing and being an Ah-tiste. This is a curiosity -- but Spike Jones did it better in "Cocktails for Two." Plus, I don't like Cage's blatantly jazzy solo for radios. The sheet music specifically says turn the radios on, not destroy them. Rotten punk rocker has to upset EVERYTHING...

Months, even years of effort being put into something doesn't render that something

as 'fantastic' automatically. Can you tell me what about it is 'fantastic'? And why would a piece by me (using keys, a washing machine, a tin can and a pukka pad, for example) not match the brilliance of this piece. I understand that he was the first of the genre and I give him huge credit as an inventor and an innovator. But please--a musician?

You couldn't be more right! Maybe it still reflects the ignorance of the times today? In 200 years Cage will be mentioned as one of the greatest late 20th century composers. These years we are only beginning to accept the importance of these pioneers. Cage, Schaeffer, Ferrari aso.

5:30 shit then it starts

GREAT post! Thanks.

That's why he probably didn't even bother to turn on the radio. People laughed when he hit the radio anyway. Genius.

@madcapoperator i find that offensive to communists.

I have to say that I have loved every entry of the discussion thus far. However, I'm sure

you have more important things going on in your life than discussing the philosophy of music on the internet with someone you don't know. Sorry you had to cut it short.

-Anthony

Wow, a great man, doing a serious job and he knows he is doing a serious job, still bearing the laughter ...

John Cage laughed all the way to the bank! lo que se ve en el video...incluso el no tenia la necesidad de tomarse tan en serio como para enojarse por la reaccion de la gente... i love cage!

i think the laughter actually goes really well with the rest of the piece..

Actually, John Cage had a big sense of humor. He knew what he was doing - and the objects he was using - had funny aspects. He was encouraging the laughter really. And if you knew more about John Cage, you'd know that he thought unpredictable elements that were always different were his ideal in music. Thus the laughter is the best part of this in his eyes. I suggest you read more about John Cage and his humor.

He couldn't stand the serious attitude in music snobbery.

Personally, I don't think that the audience was completely ignorant just because they laughed: I mean, of course some members probably thought of this as a joke, but you can still take this as serious music and feel a sense of humor through it. Not all music should be stern and not funny. Personally I did laugh twice through this video when Cage surprised me in doing certain things BUT I also took this as serious music and admired his performance. You can laugh and still respect something.

@moneyshop16 +1. You read my mind. why can't they just shut up. audience is so hella retarded. I want to slap them off xd

Great, thanks for posting.

"oh hai!" .. Sounds familiar..

there is no need to defend the AMERICANS.

totally brilliant.

fucking floored

I would like to thank Frank Zappa for giving me my first taste of contemporary music. Without him, listening to performances

from Varèse, Cage, Reich, Glass, etc, I would be among the crowd laughing and unable to see or hear the beauty where we would never think to find it.

If anyone sees something as music. You can say it isn't music but it still is music because it is music to me. Your regressive small-mindedness cannot take the music away from me.

That was BEAUTIFUL!!! I feel so fortunate to have heard him lecture @ Harvard in the late 1980s.

seriously. i can't express how disappointed i am that i will never meet this wonderful wonderful man.

i bet the audience laughed so hard they had tears in their eyes, that makes it a part of the water walk

He's a genius

But the mystery remains--what did he REALLY whisper to the host?

Cage isn't above the laughing audience, he's deliberately clowning for them. That's all the situation allows for and he's entertaining. In the meantime people get to hear some

experimental music maybe and have their horizons broadened. But I wonder if the main effect of the mad professor act isn't just to confirm a load of prejudices about "serious" music.

YES!

These people are so demeaning to him. Laughing at him and asking him if he considers his work music.

wow I look up to Cage not only for being as brave to make his own ideas real but also to putting up with that pack of ignorants that made fun of his work. Paraphrasing Hamlet Caviar to the Rubble.

@Jaydoggy531 contrary to my name, i also hate music snobbery. what really pisses me off is that people don't give a shit about finding new, innovative music that has maybe got a little bit more emotional complexity than a kindergarten classroom. that apathetic attitude allows the big music companies to make big money without having to worry about silly things like artistic merit and thought-provoking content.

schuber, tchaikovsky, shostakovitch, chopin,

liszt, bach, beethoven, lutoslawski, bartok, ginastera, atehortúa, revueltas, brouwer, mozart, mendelssohn,. where are you???? we miss you!!!! look at this!!!! help!!!! are we going to analyze the form? the melody? the harmony? the rhythm, the character, the texture, the sections, the contrapunctus, the beauty, the strength... ???? is there something more than a concept, an idea? it's poor..

sheesh, what's it supposed to be then, a brilliant composition? The laughter is the most musical thing about this.

i think these people are killing the song by laughing

maybe because they were on acid

Well, by "experimenting on his level," I am in no way implying any sort of pretension. Basically, I mean to highlight the lengths that Cage and others were willing to go to in order to break said rules, forms, and concepts. Truly, what Cage was doing is not completely random and ignorant. I think his work illustrates a knowledge of what the "rules" of music are. It's obvious in much

of his work that he, in fact, wants to break these rules.

I saw Bruce Haack on this show in the documentary made about him when he played another person via attached electrodes. RE: the “controversy,” music is the organization of sounds and silence. Cage’s “genius” was in realizing that, due to the unique expressivity of percussion, an artist’s music is inimitable whatever the instruments. We know it is Cage even when others perform his aleatory works. I dare say that even the laughter is one of his instruments here!

I don’t get it...

wow, how he could stand all the laughs? definitely he was really serious about his work.

the laughter is part of it too ya kno

Superb!

This is the same guy from Mortal Kombat, right?

Whenever I hear stuff like this, I am always reminded of Nick Mason’s “The Grand Vizier’s Garden Party.”

I like the way that the audiences squawking and chattering becomes part of the piece, laughter in particular becomes quite ethereal when taken out of context. I'm not sure about the previous comment about music being the organisation of noise or sounds, can't incidental sound be music depending on the "perspective" of the listener?

the people laughed because he put things out of context and their every-dayness and done so arbitrarily yet ordered. it's a totally acceptable emotion. it was funny, and it was art.

"the crowd is the untruth" as it was said in a Freddy Hubbard album with Ilhan Imaraglu. Great recording, by the way...Sing Me a Song of Songme...a album with jazz and electronic music about Vietnam. It really appears to genetic, the group behavior. Then again, laughter is also just responding with delight sometimes...not the worst thing to happen. However a Borat movie with a full house is much different than watching it alone at home.

the laughters made it scarier than it already

was. in a kinda david lynch's "rabbit" way.
Oh where are the days when your show could be sponsored by a pack of cigarettes? Great work. I believe that more important than what it sounds it is when it sounds. We don't have to forget that for Cage every sound has equal value. The organization of them transforms this performance into a beautiful musical work. Thank you for sharing it with us.

I love this guys work

@singalongwithtom only everything Cage has ever written or said about art/music. Here are a few videos that condense his thoughts: "Listen : John Cage: In love with another sound" and "Listen : John Cage: a buttle of Coca Cola" and "John Cage about Silence" and "John Cage talks"... Or you can simply watch the recommended videos to the right of this message. One of his books: "Silence: Lectures and Writings."

@tomekstable I love what he's doing and people are laughing because it's funny. I laughed too.

he considered laugh to be what?

It's percussion, calculated. Not many purely percussion pieces would be considered "pretty" but they take a lot of skill and rehearsal - though it is only him on stage there's a lot he has to do.... it's not easy. Takes practice like any other instrument, and by definition this is percussion.

Claude DeBussy was constantly pounced upon by his professors and classmates for his unorthodoxy. Artists must be in touch with their own inner voices.

If John Cage were an actor or a funnyman, this would be considered comic genius, but since he is a musician, it's a brilliant and innovative composition. I'm sorry, but I just see no musical value in this... I never have and never will enjoy/understand/appreciate Cage.

This isn't romantic music..more like avant-garde concert music

Of course, there's always the difference between acknowledging your inner voice and just forgetting the entire outside world. You still have to build off of what has come before you in some way, even if it leads you

somewhere totally radical. That way, you have all the devices to date, and can do with them what you will... and add to/change them.

It seems surprising that you do not see this as shit, as i also don't, but apparently so is my analysis - maybe I'm wrong - This music is not ment... funny but still ... Thumbs up for you :D

The music is in the mute button.

god i don't give a fvck about this guy introducing him why don't they delete that asshole

I love this music i just wish the radios were working but oh well. I do believe it is music; as an art form all that is required is the intention 'if you sit down, and you intend to create art, you commit to a process, and consider the work completed; then you have created art'. (this is my opinion, from years of introspection and living, please don't take this personally out there, you ARE entitled to your own)

Cage ha rivoluzionato le prospettive della stessa felicità, ampliando le rappresentazioni

del mondo.

To see a true walk on water watch on youtube: NEWEST ROBOT THAT WALK ON WATER

From what came through the fuzz, it sounded beautiful. I also couldn't stop silent laughter: a comedian, my God! Feeling overwhelmed at my lack of qualification for using the cutting edge studio that is my kitchen, I abandon it and the internet now.

John Cage was kicked out of his music class for playing in tune. he was never the same again.

It's one thing to find quirky new ways of doing things, and another to be a real composer. If you listen to something like Zappa's "Lumpy Gravy," it has some Cage elements, but there's also stuff that sounds almost like Stravinsky, some glittery pop, etc... Zappa took in what people were doing around him and created airtight masterpieces. Although, since my post I have come to understand Cage's position. He likes *sounds* for what they are, and not expressing human emotions.

Cage's work simply advocates that anything is art as long as its being performed as such. Well isn't that convenient for Mr Cage, a man who is so utterly average in his artistic and musical ability, that he can only perform acts of life on stage. Listen to his 30 pieces for orchestra, to see how tone deaf he is. Listen to his quote about being more interested in French Hornists emptying their spit buckets then what they are playing, to realise how he can't appreciate music.

Truly a work of genius

You misunderstand me, I think. When I said I wouldn't call it music, I didn't mean that as an insult - I meant that it merely doesn't fit my definition of music. I still enjoy it. However, the rhythm is time-based, and therefore does not follow a rhythm in a musical, metered sense but in more of a freer style. It is evocative, but I usually require some concept of metered rhythm or pitch to classify it as music. That's all I'm saying. I'm not calling it bad, uninteresting, or simple.

(this vid makes me so sad. some1 msg

me!! xD t

You know, two-year-olds make very similar sounds during bath time. What a despicable human being.

THIS IS FUCKING RETARDED, ONLY WHITE PEOPLE WOULD FIND THIS FUNNY

The solution is zinc!

no one cares what your opinion is...Cage saw himself as a musician... therefore he is. the reason you claim the music is conceptual is because it is percussive and therefore visually stimulating

I'm sure someone already said this, but do you think this is where Frank Zappa got the idea of playing the bicycles on the Steve Allen show a few years later?

this is the worst shit ever it's just funny, even john cage laughs about his work did you know that? this dude made shit that some people call music and laughed about it wow john cage obviously liked it in the butt You are alone. Stay inside. Plug your ears. fuck u

The studios wouldn't allow Cage to plug in

the radios in fear of electrocution. Bear in mind, with the Audience Laughter, that this was all a new concept, and that avant-garde postmodern conceptual art was pretty much a joke to the everyday Joe. And it IS a funny performance. John Cage was pretty adamant about his work being tongue-in-cheek, so I think the audience was right to laugh.

what the fuck the idiot americans are laughing at?

the laughter and every thing that just saw and heard was a unique moment. thanks for psting this video should be erased and destroyed.

Test.

This is not complex in the least or enjoyable in the least. He should not be considered an artist and anyone who thinks he should can suck it.

Insulso publico deserebrado, como osan reir en sobre una composicion de John Cage.

who decides that?

fuck me for what? disagreeing with you?

It would be nice to hear that without the

simpletons laughing at every little piece, and without the radio censorship. I hope that we've come a little farther since this time, culturally speaking. I'd like to think this sort of performance art could be taken completely seriously today, but perhaps I'm dreaming. This man is a genius. If you don't see that, there's a lot in life that you're missing. ;]

You're retarded sir.

Considering noise as music is one of the worst mistakes of the 20th century. Noise is noise. A chaotic arrangement of sounds that lack any meaning at all. People don't deserve MORE noise. They deserve good music. Not this.

dream theater is better, MUCH BETTER

I agree with John Cage philosophically about the nature of music, but Cage is no musician! This video is crap! If you enjoy this as some sort of 'art', you are a deluded fool. Go away and pay for Andy Warhol's bullshit while you're at it.

This is not music. Anyone can do this, this is just stupid and shows no respect towards

music and its beauty. Shocking.

FUCKING DICK !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Bad musician...

This isn't music. Topsy has more talent than John Cage. There is NO talent. There is NO creativity. He uses his creativity almost parallel to a Serial Killer. Parallel in that there is no positive outcome of the creativity. There is no way any sane person can seriously say John Cage is A) a Musician and B) an Artist. This is a man that was born to show the world that originality is not always good.

Je pense à la scène où Antoine compose de la musique avec des robinets et autres alambics dans le film Les tontons flingueurs de 1963, genre de musique qui inspira l'ironie de Michel Audiard :)

what the fuck was he smoking when he "composed" this

O publico ri por talvez não entender esta diversidade de sons que podemos aproveitar em termo de musica.

Tuber comments from Satie's Vexations
and John Cage's Water Walk
(c) Slo-mo Books Glasgow 2014

S A T I E
vexations

T I E X C

E X C A
Water
Walk

C A G E
*completing
family
panel*
*from output
e comments*
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G E S A T