

Morning Commute Sequence

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This audio project focus on the daily commute sounds of a person in the Chicago area. We concentrated on the random sounds from the time a person wakes up in the morning on a busy day and up until they reach their destination. A daily commute is much like a Rube Goldberg machine; an alarm wakes you up and then you proceed to shower. From there you grab your keys and leave. After you leave, things will be very similar from day to day, but there can also be all kinds of different sounds. We have a few different types of commutes represented in our project – public transportation, driving, and walking. Most of our sounds are found from the internet, a few were recorded by us, and others are synthesized in the Max patch.

The parts where the music cuts in are representative of the commuter putting their headphones on or turning on the music in their car. It drowns out the other noises for the most part. The jarring effect of transitioning from city sounds to the music are exactly what happens; you don't want to hear things around you or you want a distraction, so you put on music. Sometimes, though, the outside sounds still get through. The distortion of some sounds is to make it more interesting. It also to gives a feel of the city – a kind of strange, interesting feel.

To involve the user, we set it up so they choose 2 sound files to be played in the patch. This will also change the patch if different sounds are selected. In addition to the user selected sounds, there is a part that will play a different set of sounds, kids and a helicopter or birds and a jet, based on if 1 or 0 comes up. There is also a part where a siren will play if urn comes up 4. Finally, we used a MIDI to play a tune of various sorts of pitches; this is also based on randomness and probability, so the tones played will vary in order each time the patch is played. This creates a dynamic and exciting user experience based on unpredictability of what will be played.

Work break down

Tejus: Found sounds: recorded a few and downloaded a few. Worked on the middle section of the patch – from the sirens to the Chicago song.

Karen: Found some sounds, worked mostly on the end section of the patch – from the ska song to the L doors closing.

Kailei: Found sounds from soundcloud, as well as used my own shower recording. I worked on the beginning of the song – from the shower to the car keys jingling.