“Magic Music from the Telharmonium”

Reynold Weidenaar
Department of Communication
William Paterson University
Wayne, New Jersey 07470-2152, U.S.A.
Tel. 212-769-1514
Fax 212-399-6310
weidenaar@email.njinn.net
http://magneticmusic.org

Color Video Program with Stereo Sound
Duration 28:51
NTSC Release Formats: VHS HiFi, 3/4-inch U-matic, BetacamSP
PAL Release Formats: VHS HiFi, BetacamSP
© 1998 by Magnetic Music Publishing Co. (ASCAP)

1. SYNOPSIS

It was 1906. “Get Music on Tap Like Gas or Water” promised the headlines, and soon the public was enchanted with inventor Thaddeus Cahill’s (1867-1934) electrical music by wire. The Telharmonium was a 200-ton behemoth that created numerous musical timbres and could flood many rooms with sound. Beginning with the first instrument, constructed in the 1890’s, and continuing with the installation of the second instrument at Telharmonium Hall in New York, the rise and fall of commercial service, the attempted comeback of the third Telharmonium, and ending with efforts to find a home for the only surviving instrument in 1951, this documentary provides a definitive account of the first comprehensive music synthesizer.

2. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Sound Software
SoundHack, Sound Designer, Hyperprism, Time Bandit, Reverb, Peak, Deck

Image Software
- Photoshop, Director

Hardware
PowerMac 8500, Macintosh IIci, Yamaha TX802 Tone Generator

3. CREDITS

Script, Production, Direction, Still Camera, Image Processing, Computer Animation, Audio Recording, Music Arrangement, Digital Sound Design, Editing
Reynold Weidenaar

With the Support of
The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, Inc., Hollywood, California
The Center for Electronic Music, New York, New York
Harvestworks, Inc. / Studio PASS, New York, New York
William Paterson University, Wayne, New Jersey

Narration
Brian Lehrer

Keyboard Performances
Barbara Blegen
Additional Performance by Reynold Weidenaar

Voices
Lisa Brenner
Elliott Crown
Dennis Heaphy
Roseanne Limoncelli
James Edward Pierce
Julia Pennington
Reynold Weidenaar

- 600 -

ICMC Proceedings 1999
MIDI Music Production Engineers
Alex Noyes, Harvestworks Inc. / Studio PASS
Mark Ramsey, Center for Electronic Music

Online Editing Engineers
Nils Nichols and Topher Dune, through the Standby Program at Unitel Post 38

Music (in order of presentation)
1. Scott Joplin  \hspace{1cm} Palm Leaf Rag
2. George Frideric Handel  \hspace{1cm} Largo from Xerxes
3. Felix Mendelssohn  \hspace{1cm} Frühlingslied, Op. 62, No. 6
4. Georges Bizet  \hspace{1cm} March and Chorus from Carmen
5. Ethelbert Nevin  \hspace{1cm} Narcissus, Op. 13, No. 4
6. Alphonse Czibulka  \hspace{1cm} Songe d’amour après le bal (Intermezzo), Op. 356
7. John H. Flynn  \hspace{1cm} Yip-I-Addy-I-Ay!
8. Robert Planquette  \hspace{1cm} Legend of the Bells from Chimes of Normandy
9. Gustave Kerker  \hspace{1cm} As She Played on the Cal-li-o-pay! from The Social Whirl
10. J. L. Mollay  \hspace{1cm} The Kerry Dance
11. Georg Goltermann  \hspace{1cm} Andante from Concerto No. 5 for Violoncello
12. G. A. Spink  \hspace{1cm} I’ve Got to Dance Till the Band Gits Through (Bill Simmons) from The Social Whirl
13. Richard Wagner  \hspace{1cm} Prelude from Lohengrin
14. Alfred G. Robyn  \hspace{1cm} The Rook and the Robin from Princess Beggar
15. Victor Herbert  \hspace{1cm} Absinthe Frappè from It Happened in Nordland
16. Karl L. Hoschna  \hspace{1cm} Every Little Movement Has a Meaning All Its Own from Madame Sherry
17. Charles de Bériot  \hspace{1cm} Concerto No. 1 for Violin, Op. 16
18. Lowell Mason  \hspace{1cm} Nearer My God to Thee
19. Giacomo Rossini  \hspace{1cm} Andantino from William Tell
20. Johann Strauss  \hspace{1cm} Du und du, Op. 367
21. Ludwig van Beethoven  \hspace{1cm} Polonaise, Op. 8
22. Ben M. Jerome  \hspace{1cm} Kiss Me Good-bye and Go, Jack
23. Gustave Kerker  \hspace{1cm} It’s Nice to Have a Sweetheart from The Tourists
24. Pietro Mascagni  \hspace{1cm} Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana
25. Thomas Thompson  \hspace{1cm} Serenade
26. Franz Lehár  \hspace{1cm} I Love You So (The Merry Widow Waltz)
27. Richard Wagner  \hspace{1cm} To the Evening Star from Tannhäuser
28. Reynold Weidenaar  \hspace{1cm} Telharmonia
29. Scott Joplin  \hspace{1cm} Maple Leaf Rag
30. Scottish Folk Song  \hspace{1cm} Auld Lang Syne

Picture Sources
American Telephone and Telegraph Co. Corporate Archives
AT&T Bell Laboratories
Carnegie Hall Archives
David Sarnoff Research Center
Ella Merkel DiCarlo
Holyoke Public Library
The Maryland Club
Robert A. Moog
Museum of the City of New York
New Jersey Secretary of State, Corporate Information and Records Section
New York City Board of Estimate and Apportionment, Bureau of Franchises
New York City Municipal Archives
New-York Historical Society
New York Public Library, Mid-Manhattan Branch, Picture Collection
New York Public Library, Performing Arts Research Center, Billy Rose Theatre Collection
New York Public Library, Performing Arts Research Center, Music Division
Office for Metropolitan History
Thomas L. Rhea
Margaret Cahill Schwartz

Sound Effects Sources
Harvestworks Inc. / Studio PASS
Marilyn Reese

ICMC Proceedings 1999  \hspace{1cm} - 601 -