“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.njin.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

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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 IIfx, 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

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

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
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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
New York Public Library, The Research Libraries, U. S. History, Local History & Genealogy Dept.
Office for Metropolitan History
Thomas L. Rhea
Margaret Cahill Schwartz

Sound Effects Sources

Harvestworks Inc. / Studio PASS
Marilyn Reese