

Program note

“And tonight he would drink from the waters of Cibola, yes, and it would taste like wine.”

Taking loose inspiration from Stephen King’s post-apocalyptic epic ‘The Stand’ (1990), the work sets the ensemble into a synthetic and erratic environment of sound and light, depicting the struggle of the performers to ‘sing’ through their instruments and find new ways of expression to transgress their desolate surroundings.

Bringing together the human and the artificial, the synthetic and the organic, the work presents a combination of live instrumental performance, electronics, light design and AI-generated sonic content (obtained from the neural network PRISM SampleRNN) as an exploration of newfound ways of expression amidst an imagined posthuman landscape.

Instrumentation

Tenor saxophone

Percussion

Large tom-tom

Spring coil

Spring drum

Hi-hat 1 (large china + regular cymbal)

Hi-hat 2 (2 small cymbals)

Kalimba

MIDI pad (8 pads)

Piano & MIDI keyboard (4 octaves)

Technical requirements

2 MIDI pedals (for saxophonist and pianist, connected via the percussion pad and the keyboard, respectively)

1 contact microphone

2 microphones going into sound interface (saxophone and kalimba)

Additional microphones for amplification

Sound interface

Mixer

Stereo speakers

4 lights with RGBW DMX controls (suggested model Gear4Music Sol-Party-12S)

DMX interface

Laptop (running Ableton Live, Max and QLab)

Technical rider

