

Jasna Veličković

Opera of Things

Amsterdam, April 2019

Opera of Things extends the concept of the voice beyond its conventional connection to animate beings. The title of this work alludes to the concept of the 'Internet of Things', which involves extending internet connectivity beyond standard devices into any range of common objects.

Opera of Things consists of two parts: a three-part sound installation and a performance for a solo performer.

First performance: 19.05.2019 - Opera dagen, Rotterdam.

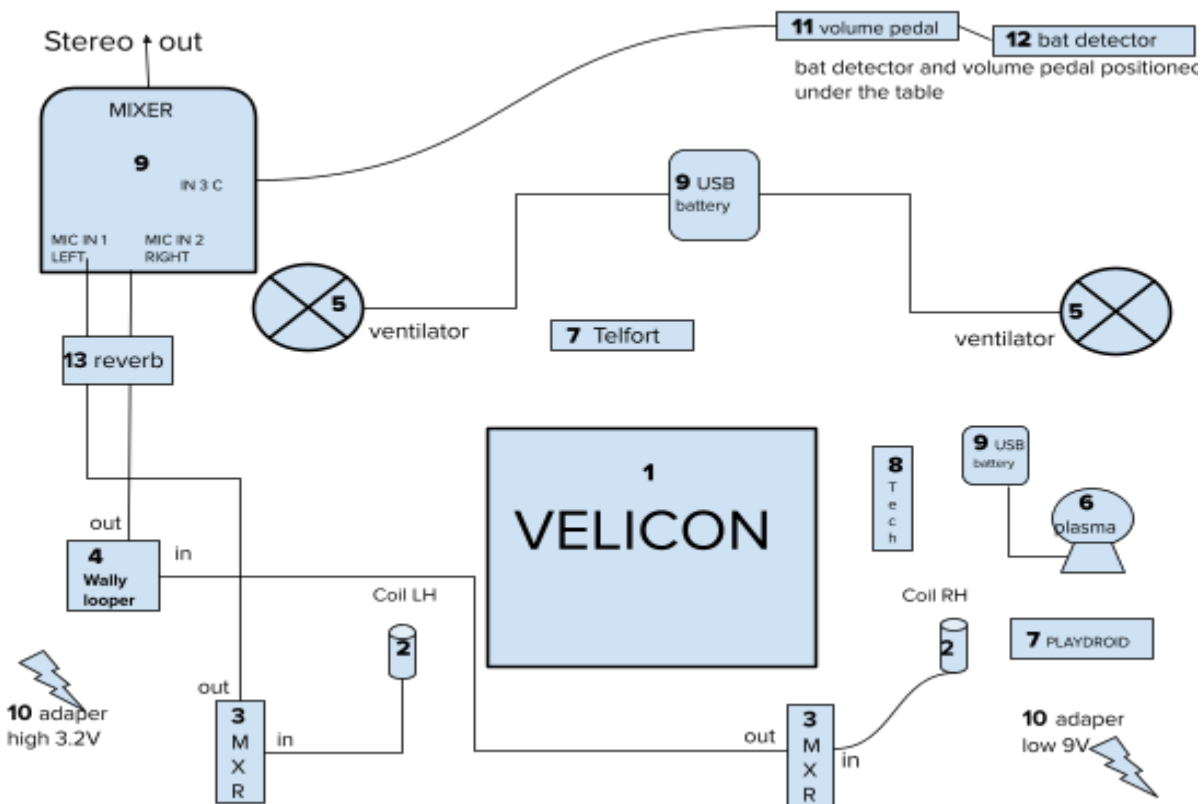
Installation: 19.4 until 30.06. 2019 at Post-Opera exhibition, TENT gallery Rotterdam.

Commissioned by CBK Rotterdam.

Financially supported by The Performing Arts Fund NL.

Setup for a live performance:

1. Velicon (“Wall”, “Beast”, “Dark Matter”, “Potemkin”)
2. Two coils
3. Two signal boosters (preferably MXR)
4. Wally looper (with functionality to change the speed)
5. Two ventilators DC5V, 500mAp (charged with the USB battery)
6. One plasma lamp (charged with the USB battery)
7. Two remote controls (Telfort interactive TV and Playdroid TV by Lexibook)
8. One virtual keyboard (TECH)
9. Mixer (with minimum 2 mic inputs)
10. Two adapters (high 3.2V and low 9V) with two power strips
11. Volume pedal
12. One bat detector (Baton)
13. Reverb pedal (optional)



Left hand coil - MXR - Reverb - Mixer mic input 1 (pan left)

Right hand coil - MXR - Wally - Reverb - Mixer mic input 2 (pan right)

Baton - Volume pedal - Mixer input:

Technical reader:

1. Two full range speakers with subwoofer
2. Table minimum size 2 m x 1.5 m
3. Piano chair
4. Spotlight
5. Power strip

Velicon magnet setup:

1. “Wall” (2 sets)

Set a: neodymium block magnet 40x10x10; ferrite black sphere Ø 28

Set b: neodymium block magnet 60x20x10; ferrite black sphere Ø 20

2. “Beast” (3 sets)

Set a: 3 neodymium block magnets 40x10x10; 2 rod magnets Ø 10x2;

metal saw 160x5x1

Set b: 2 neodymium block magnets 20x20x10 and 30x10x10; 2 rod magnets Ø 10x2;

metal saw 160x5x1

Set c: neodymium block magnet 40x20x10; rod magnet Ø 10x10; metal saw 160x5x1

3. "Dark Matter" (3 sets)

Set a: neodymium block magnet 30x20x10; two neodymium block magnets 15x15x8;

2 ferrite black spheres Ø 20 Ø 28

Set b: neodymium block magnet 50x25x10; two neodymium block magnets 15x15x8;

2 ferrite black spheres Ø 20

Set c: neodymium block magnet 40x20x10; two neodymium block magnets 15x15x8;

2 ferrite black spheres Ø 20

4. "Potemkin" (3 sets)

Set a&b: ferrite olive shape magnet Ø 45; neodymium block magnet 20x10x3;

neodymium rod magnet Ø 10x10

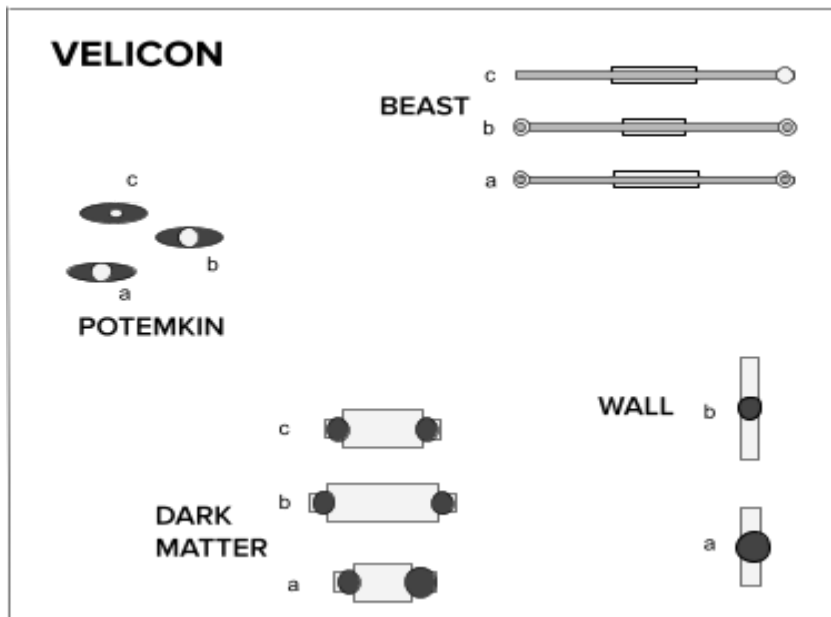
Set c: ferrite olive shape magnet Ø 45; neodymium block magnet 20x10x3;

neodymium rod magnet Ø 10x4

5. Metal board

All magnets are mounted on a metal board 450x350x1

[millimeter measurement]



Performance notes:

The composition consists of five sections:

Cantus Firmus and Ventilators (approximately 4 min)

Beast (approximately 3.5 min including the transition)

Plasma Lamp and Remote Control Love Duet (2 minutes)

Within Fields (approximately 1.5 min)

Dark Matter (approximately 4.5 minutes)

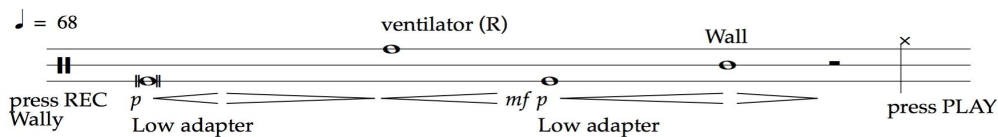
Total duration 15 minutes

Part 1 - Cantus Firmus and Ventilators (approximately 4 min)

Record “Cantus Firmus” (CF) with Wally Looper (WL)

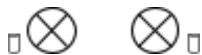
CANTUS FIRMUS

With RH coil pick up/record the sound in the following order. After recording press play.



Continue playing CF with your RH coil. After the first playback with WL, change gradually the speed of the playback to the lowest. Once the new speed/pitch is fixed, take the LH coil and play the sound of the ventilator L (ventilator to the left side of the table).

Play the ventilators with two coils. Change freely the intensity (proximity of the coil to the ventilator) and the pitch (angle of the fan) of the ventilator sound.



With your right foot press the volume foot pedal (Bat detector) under the table and make a loud “sss” sound with your voice, keep the sound going as long as you have air to breath. Push immediately the volume pedal down to zero.

With your LH coil pick up the sound of the high adapter, and keep the coil there. Gradually stop producing the ventilator sound with your RH coil.

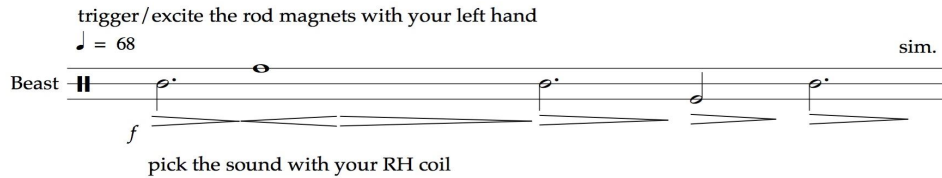
Listen to the sound of the high adapter. Stay there.

Slowly press the volume foot pedal (bat detector) and listen to the sound transformation. Once you hear again the CF low adapter sound, repeat the “sss” with your voice.

Stay still until you hear the CF wall sound, your cue to start the part 2.

Part 2 - Beast (approximately 3.5 min including the transition)

Play “the Beast” with the RH coil.



Turn the power OFF of the right ventilator with your left hand. Continue playing the Beast but now picking up the sound with both RH and LH coil. Decrease the volume of the CF on WL.

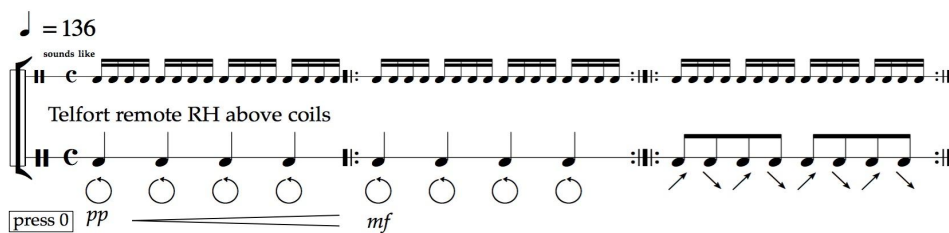
Move to the new sets of magnets: “the Wall” and “the Potemkin”. Play them freely, in a similar way. After approx. 2 minutes you will start with the transition to part 3.

The transition starts at the beginning of a new CF cycle (pay attention to the first low adapter sound after the silence).

During the transition prepare the space for the new “voices”. Play the Playdroid remote control and the virtual keyboard sounds. Move back and play again the Wall.

Place the LH and RH coil in front of you, at the table in the central position (as much as the empty surface of the table allows).

Take the Telfort remote control with your RH, press 0 button and start moving the remote above the coils in circular motion. The pulsating rhythm will become audible with a speed of 136 BPM.



Turn the power block with the low adapter OFF.

Turn the plasma lamp ON and move it slowly towards the coils until you start hearing the interference sound between the plasma lamp and the remote control. The pulsating remote control signal will transform because of interference with the electromagnetic waves of the plasma lamp, thus it will create a ghost melody. This is the cue to start playing part 3.

Part 3 - Plasma light and Remote control Love Duet (2 minutes)

Play the following patterns. You can repeat patterns as many times as you like in your own order. You are encouraged to make your own variations.

The image displays four musical staves arranged in a 2x2 grid, representing a duet between a plasma lamp (PL) and a remote control (T). The tempo is marked as $\text{♩} = 136$. The top-left staff is titled "Plasma lamp with LH palm" and includes the instruction "Telfort (circular movement above the coils with RH)". The top-right staff is labeled "PL" and "T". The bottom-left staff is labeled "PL" and "T". The bottom-right staff is labeled "PL" and "T". Each staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The PL part is written on a single staff, while the T part is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The T part consists of a series of 'x' marks on a single line, indicating a specific sound or action. The PL part consists of a series of notes and rests. The bottom-left and bottom-right staves have a "sounds like" label below them.

General direction for the plasma lamp “melody”: play the melody with as many variations as possible and with the gradual crescendo towards the end of the section. Be guided by the sound.

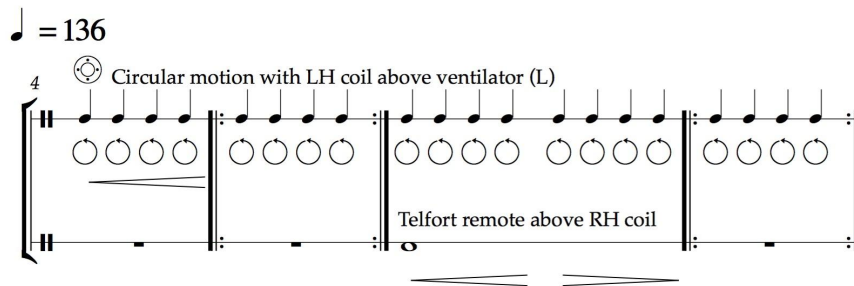
Move the plasma lamp slowly away from the coils, and turn it OFF.

Move the LH coil to the left side of the table. The sound of remote control should not be stopped. End the section with the remote control sound, poco a poco diminuendo.

The image shows a musical staff for the Telfort part, titled "Telfort (circular movement above the coils with RH)". The staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of a series of notes and rests. The bottom of the staff has a series of 'x' marks on a single line, indicating a specific sound or action. The staff ends with a double bar line and a *pp* (pianissimo) marking.

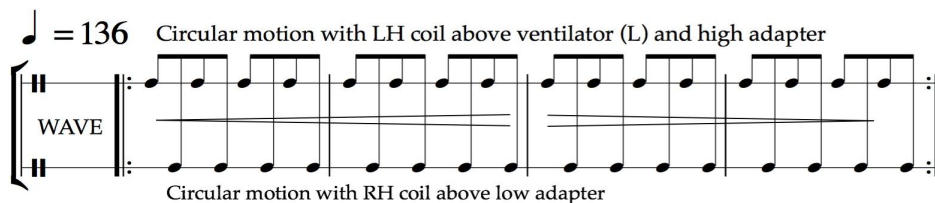
Part 4 - Within Fields (approximately 1.5 min)

When you hear the sound of the Wall in Cantus Firmus start making the circular movements with the LH coil above the ventilator on the left side of the table. Continue with the same speed. From time to time add the sound of the Telfort remote with your right hand.



While playing the ventilator L with your LH coil, turn with your right hand the power block with the low adapter and the ventilator on the right side ON.

Start playing a low adapter with the RH coil to create sound waves. Repeat that sound a couple of times.



Move smoothly through the electromagnetic fields, gradually creating and leaving sound waves. You should always listen to the Cantus Firmus as a reference when to stop and start a new wave.

At the end of this section make a loud “sss” sound with your voice supported with the volume foot pedal (Bat detector). The “sss” sound with your voice should appear only once. Immediately push down the pedal to bring the volume back to zero. Play the last wave diminuendo, only with the sound of the low adapter.

Part 5 - Dark Matter (approximately 4.5 minutes)

Play the following:

dark matter (set a) with both hands

trigger the right black sphere with your left hand

f *sim.*

make the circular movements in the air with your RH coil

ventilator (L) with left hand

circular motion with LH coil above ventilator (L) - keep the same intensity and volume

trigger the right black sphere once and continue making the circular movements in the air with your RH coil
(magnet sound will slowly fade out)

dark matter (set a) with right hand

ventilator (L) with left hand

circular motion with LH coil above ventilator (L) - keep the same intensity and volume

set a R set b R set b L set b R set a R set b R set b L set b R

trigger the right black spheres (set a, b, c) as written and pick up the sound with your RH coil creating a melody

dark matter (set a, b, c) with right hand - playing "dark melody" legato

dark matter (set b and c) trigger the right black sphere with your right hand and pick the sound with your RH coil

repeat every block x times; order is up to you; keep it intense

RH LH dark matter (set c) both coils

RH LH dark matter (set b) both coils

RH LH dark matter (set a) both coils

RH LH dark matter (set a) both coils

RH LH dark matter (set b) both coils

RH LH dark matter (set c) both coils

RH LH dark matter (set b) both coils

RH LH dark matter (set a) both coils

ventilator (L) with left hand
RH LH dark matter (set a) LH coil

The last two minutes of the composition are free.

General direction: continue to play with the Dark Matter magnet set furiously and aggressively. Increase the intensity by adding irregular rhythms, speed up the tempo, add your voice with a support of a bat detector, and reach maximum loudness.

At the very end, slow down gradually, turn the Cantus Firmus volume down to zero and play the Beast magnet set as the last sound of the composition with RH coil until the instrument stops its vibration.

LAST NOTE:

It is important to memorize the composition since it is not possible to read the instructions and play the piece at the same time.

[Opera of Things, video registration](#)

http://jasnavelickovic.com/video/Opera_of_things_Tent_Jasna_Velickovic.mp4

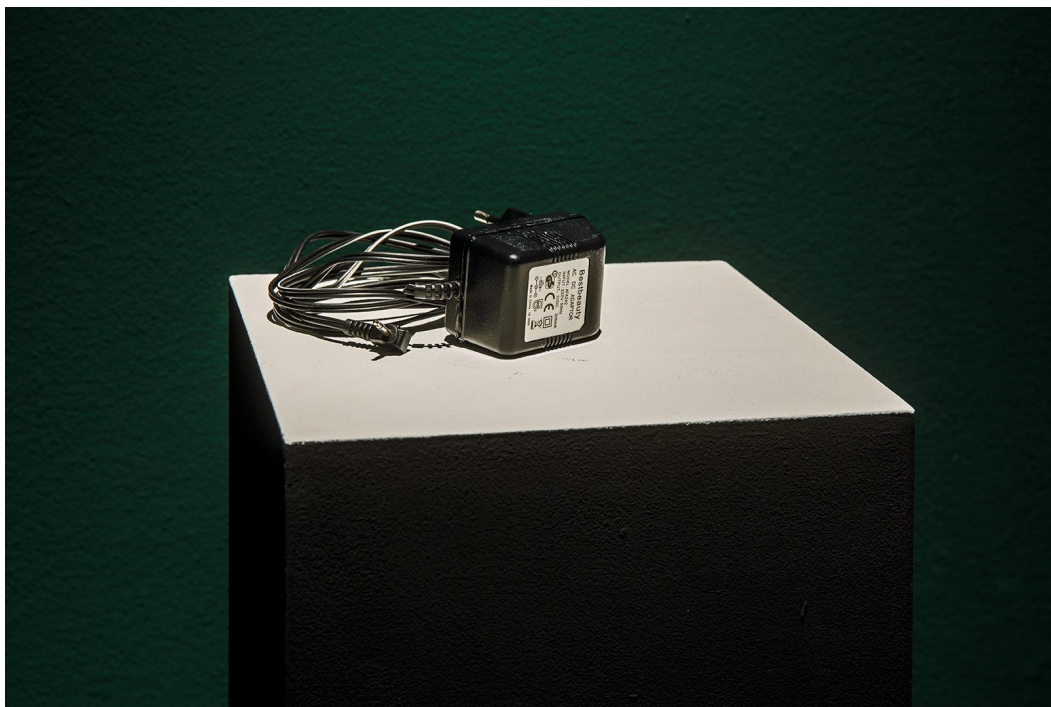
Installation:

At different times the installation performs an 'intervention' in the exhibition with three short compositions, referring to elements in opera: there is an aria, 'Beauty 3.2 Volts'; a duet 'Diva and the Beast'; and a castrati quartet 'Ophelia'. The 'voices' we hear are invoked from the objects on display – two groups of power adapters and a Velicon.

These 'objects' – only in appearance silent and cold metal or plastic system units, but actually the treasuries of the most diverse kinds of sounds, from the almost tangible robust low, to the very profound and delicate high ones – received their voice through the composer/performer's movements.

Click the title to listen:

[Beauty 3.2 Volts - Aria](#)



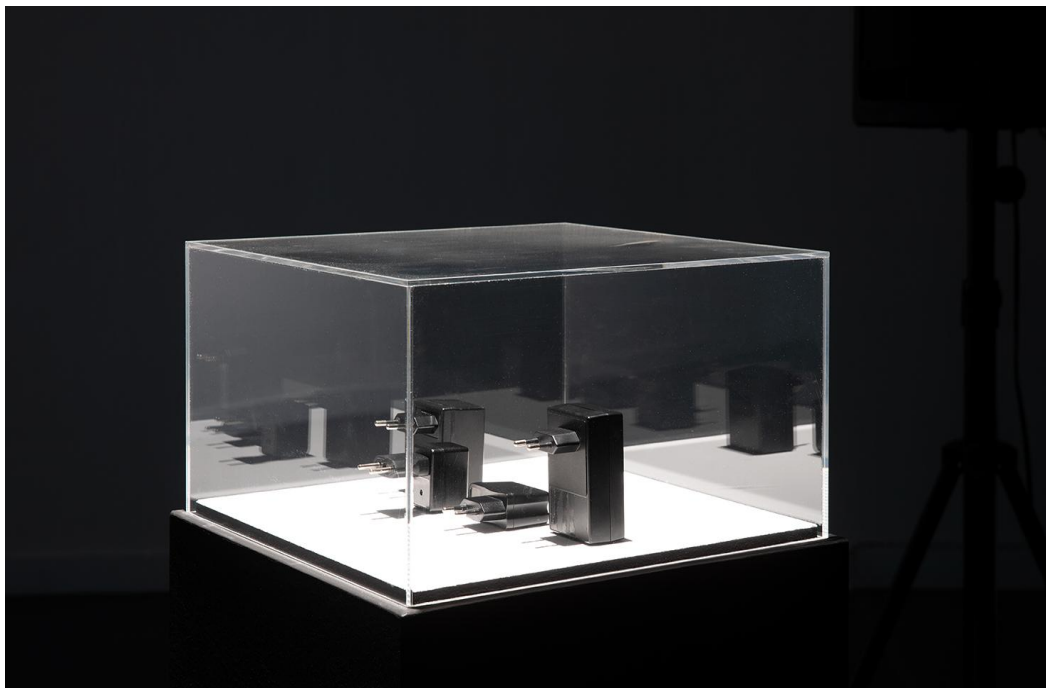
<http://jasnavelickovic.com/sounds/beauty.mp3>

[Diva and the Beast - Duet](#)



<http://jasnavelickovic.com/sounds/beast.mp3>

[Ophelia - Castrati quartet](#)



<http://jasnavelickovic.com/sounds/ophelia.mp3>