

# World Forum for Acoustic Ecology WFAE Newsletter

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## WFAE Newsletter

**Volume 7, Number 4. July-August, 2010**

WFAE Web Site: [wfae.net](http://wfae.net)



Koli Finland - June 16-19, 2010 - Photo by Eric Leonardson

## WFAE Affiliate News

### WFAE CHAIR REPORT: By Hill Kobayashi



Hello, I am Hill Hiroki Kobayashi, the newly appointed chair of the World Forum for Acoustic Ecology. My experience in the acoustic-ecology field maybe relatively young compared to some of the members but my love of, and interest in, this field is very strong. It is a great honor for me to be able to help my beloved WFAE organization. I am currently a board member of Japanese Association for Sound Ecology (SAJ), Research Fellow with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, and a Ph.D candidate in the Cyber Interface Lab, Graduate School of Engineering, at the University of Tokyo.

Eighteen years have passed since the foundation of the WFAE and the number of affiliate organizations has rapidly increased around the world because of a growing interest in issues related to the soundscape. Whenever possible, the WFAE will continue to provide "intersections" where all the affiliates and their members are able to interact with one another. Be that interaction through publication of periodical material such as our Journal and this on-line newsletter, or through international conferences. The ability of each member to have the opportunity to "interact" with others is what our society needs the most. As chair, I anticipate future gatherings of international affiliates with each representing different cultural backgrounds and languages - all coming together to share their interests in acoustic-ecology.

In that sense, our June international conference in Koli, Finland finished successfully. We appreciated the many participants who came from all over the world. I believe that the conference provided everyone with a positive experience and increased interest and fresh perspective about our future as an organization - one that can only come about through the meaningful interaction between WFAE members.

My sincere hope is that the WFAE helps each member in some way to seek his/her own unique happiness in daily life. With your help I'll be able to help move the WFAE forward. I appreciate your active involvement and support for our organization. Let's enjoy a successful year of WFAE!

### AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR ACOUSTIC ECOLOGY (ASAE)

Submitted by Andrea Polli

#### ASAE Symposium and Retreat in Chicago July 9-11, 2010.

Our July symposium is the first-ever national gathering of the [ASAE](#) membership and the general public. Hosted by the [Midwest Society for Acoustic Ecology](#) and the World Listening Project, "Listening for the Future" will take place from July 9-11, 2010. We think it's going to be a fantastic three days, with plenty of information and inspiration to go around. We hope you will join us at this landmark event.

## Event Highlights



Friday (7/9) - 'Citizen Sound' symposium featuring a wine and cheese reception, introductions to each of the ASAE chapters, and presentations by leaders in Chicago's cultural and advocacy scene. Featured guests include Lou Mallozzi, Executive Director of [Experimental Sound Studio](#) and architect Graham Balkany of the [Gropius in Chicago Coalition](#). A media lounge, where guests can sample CDs and peruse publications by participants, performers and ASAE members, will be open all night. Following dinner at a local eatery, we'll be treated to a concert featuring ASAE member composers, performers and special guests.

Saturday (7/10) - Head "out of town" for an afternoon soundwalk in [Miller Woods](#), at the [Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore](#). After the dunes soundwalk, it's back to the city for another group dinner followed by a Chicago nightlife soundwalk. This day's events should provide plenty of opportunities for informal conversation and networking among members.

Sunday (7/11) - ASAE members lead a workshop for children and families. A late afternoon concert and closing reception will follow. ASAE members from New York, San Francisco, the Midwest, Southwest and beyond will present their works.

*The ASAE - Listening for the Future.* During the course of these events, the ASAE's governing body and leaders from all the regional chapters will be meeting to brainstorm for the future of the organization. We will be soliciting input from you - our members - as we embark on this important work. Please plan to share any

ideas, concerns or questions about the organization that you might have.

*Practicalities* - All events, including both concerts, the 'Citizen Sound' symposium, the soundwalks and the workshop are free for ASAE members (current for 2010). All meals are pay-your-own, but we'll be making advance reservations so will ask you to register. Transportation between venues, including the Dunes soundwalk, will be via public transit. These costs are not covered by the ASAE, but we will plan to meet and travel as a group to the Dunes soundwalk.

Additional details will be posted on the [Listening for the Future](#) web page. Please bookmark and check back often as we'll be making frequent updates from here forward. Visit the web site for information about events along with locations of all venues, maps, schedules etc.

## Canadian Association for Soundscape Ecology (CASE)

Submitted by Andrea Dancer



To commemorate the first annual World Listening Day on July 18th, CASE will co-present with New Adventures in Sound Art an afternoon of events that begins with a SOUNDwalk in the area of the Artscape Wychwood Barns, Toronto, followed by a soundscape concert of works on the theme *Ecology: Water, Air, Sound* at the NAISA space. SOUNDwalk begins at 1pm. Dress for the weather as this event will happen come rain or shine.

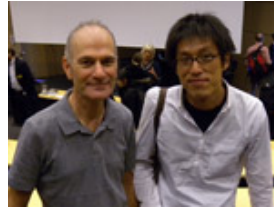
News from our members

CASE member Eric Powell was just commissioned by The Saskatchewan Arts Board to create a soundscape composition for the 2010 Lieutenant Governor's Awards in September. The piece explores the unique aural character of Saskatchewan and will be scored for 8-channel tape and live instrumental performers.

[holophon.ca](#) - founded by CASE members Charlie Fox and Eric Powell and other Regina sound artists - is pleased to announce that their third season will include public soundwalking presentations. In addition to presenting soundwalks in both Regina and Saskatoon, [holophon.ca](#) is planning a soundwalking workshop series with Hildegard Westerkamp. These events will take place in the Summer of 2011.

## Finnish Society for Acoustic Ecology (FSAE)

The Department of Finnish Language and Cultural Research at the University of Joensuu and The Finnish Society for Acoustic Ecology hosted the 'Ideologies and Ethics in the Uses and Abuses of Sound' conference in Koli, June 15-19. Koli was the perfect site for reflecting upon ideologies, ethics and soundscapes, since it was amongst the key places of the national romantic artist pilgrims in the late 19th century Finland. Here are selected photos from that event. A full post-conference summary will be found on the [FSAE web site](#) later this summer.



- Click Image
- a. UKKO Center
  - b. Auditorium
  - c. Helmi Järviluoma
  - d. Nigel Frayne & Hill
  - e. Evening group walk
  - f. Hildi Westerkamp



- Photo Credits
- a. Eric Lenoardson
  - b. Meri Kytö
  - c. Eric Lenoardson
  - d. Kyoko Tsujimoto
  - e. Kyoko Tsujimoto
  - f. Meri Kytö

### Japanese Association for Sound Ecology (JASE)

Submitted by Masami Raker Yuki

This year's annual symposium of the [Soundscape Association in Japan \(SAJ\)](#), which was held in Tokyo on May 29th, focused on an extraordinary world of cultural diversity as represented by Masayuki Nishie. Mr. Nishie is a well-known linguist, cultural anthropologist, and writer, as well as current President of the SAJ. The three-hour symposium was actually designed to be a series of interviews of Mr. Nishie by SAJ members, each asking about acoustic/sonic aspects of one of the following six topics: languages, communication, body, food, displacement, and tubism.

Mr. Nishie's talk, especially his discussion on the acoustic/sonic significances of languages and communication, was informative and thought-provoking. But what was truly extraordinary was his unconventional perceptions and observations, as exemplified in his analogy between sound and excretion (both having in common the movement of getting in and out one's body), as well as his manifesto of tubism that everything on the earth—roads, vehicles, trees, bodies, organs, etc.—share a tubelike shape (he mentioned that the Internet is an exception, implying that we are now in a post-tubism era). Mr. Nishie is truly a multicultural, interdisciplinary scholar/traveler/writer, but most importantly he is such an entertaining speaker that all present had a great time learning, thinking, and laughing.

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### SOUND BITES:



#### Singing 'rewires' damaged brain.

(BBC) Teaching stroke patients to sing "rewires" their brains, helping them recover their speech, say scientists.

By singing, patients use a different area of the brain from the area involved in speech.

If a person's "speech centre" is damaged by a stroke, they can learn to use their "singing centre" instead.

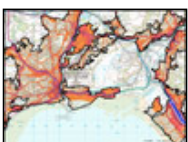
Researchers presented these findings at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in San Diego. [Read More.](#)



#### Maps chart noise in urban areas.

(BBC) The information will be used in attempts to reduce noise pollution. Residents in 23 towns and cities in England are to be given the chance to monitor noise levels in their area using interactive maps.

[Read More.](#)



#### Maps chart Welsh noise pollution.

(BBC) Maps showing noise levels from roads and railways have been published as part of a scheme to show

#### God particle signal is simulated as sound. (BBC)

Scientists have simulated the sounds set to be made by sub-atomic particles such as the Higgs boson when they are produced at the Large Hadron Collider.

Their aim is to develop a means for physicists at Cern to "listen to the data" and pick out the Higgs particle if and when they finally detect it. [Read More.](#)

#### Thy Noisy Neighbor. (Responsibility Project)

The meaning of 'love thy neighbor' was challenged in court recently, when a Phoenix (Arizona, USA) judge was asked to decide between the rights of two neighbors: a church that played recorded bells through a loudspeaker 13 times a day, and annoyed residents who wanted quiet. [Read More.](#)



#### India defines night to curb noise.

(CNN) Indian policy - makers have prepared what they call a road map aimed at controlling pervasive noise. And one of the latest steps they have taken is to give comfort to citizens at bedtime. They have defined night in legal terms. [Read More.](#)

**Americans Forced to Quiet Down (Parade)** The increasing volume of American life from construction

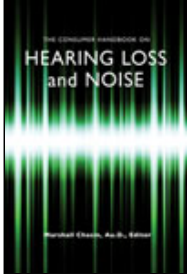


how noise pollution might affect families. [Read More.](#)

**Wind farm gets time to fix noise issue.** (News Tribune) Neighbors have complained about the noise and vibrations from a wind farm. A local County planning commission, in Oregon (USA), addresses the issue. [Read More.](#)

sites car alarms and barking dogs to booming stereos is leading lawmakers across the nation to address noise issues. [Read More.](#)

## RESOURCES: Video - CD - Web - Print



**Book: Consumer Handbook on Hearing Loss and Noise.** Edited by Marshall Chasin, Published by Auricle Ink, Sedonia, Arizona. This book is written for the

consumer who has suffered hearing loss caused from noise. Many of the chapters have clear strategies that can be implemented to reduce the effects of noise when it cannot be avoided completely. ASAE member Arline L. Bronzafit contributed a chapter to this book entitled "Noise: Harmful Physical and Mental Consequences".

ISBN: 978-09825785-06  
Hardcover Only

**Web: Women's Audio Mission** is a San Francisco based non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of women in music production and the recording arts. In a field where women are chronically under-represented (less than 5%), WAM seeks to "change the face of sound" by providing hands-on training, experience, career counseling and job placement to women and girls in media technology for music, radio, film, television and the internet. WAM believes that women's mastery of music technology and inclusion in the production process will expand the vision and voice of media and popular culture.

**Web: Acoustic Ecology Institute News.** This site features the most important news and research items from the AEI website. The Acoustic Ecology Institute is a non-profit organization based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA founded in 2003. The Institute provides access to news, academic research, public policy advocates, and articles and essays about sound and listening.

**Web: Xpeditions.** The purpose of this National Geographic site is to challenge you to "collect" sounds that define your zip code's sense of place!

When you are asked to describe where you live, what do you say? Do you describe the homes, shops, and businesses? Do you describe the people? Maybe you describe the landscape. All of these things help to define your sense of place, or what makes a certain place have its own distinctive character.

One distinctive characteristic which helps to create a sense of place is sound. Sound is often forgotten, but without sound, places might not have the same "sense of place." Close your eyes for a moment and think about the sounds that are surrounding you right now. It's likely that you don't usually even notice many of them. It might be the hum of your computer, birds outside of your window, or younger brothers and sisters laughing. All of these sounds build a "soundscape" (much like a landscape), which helps to create a sense of place in your home.



**BLOG: Open Thread: Acoustic Ecology.** This blog page is found at Weird Vibrations out of Thailand. [WeirdVibrations.com](#) was founded in

August, 2009.

WV is an ongoing investigation into the politics of human sensuality, by way of commentary, reviews, field recordings, and artwork. Most posts include both text and media. Our emphasis is sonic, but we're not deaf to pictures, tastes, or feelings.



**Book: Acoustic Ecology of The First Person Shooter**

**Experience** by Mark Grimshaw.

There has been little written on the player experience of computer game sound and so the research contained within this work is an important contribution to an area where the visual (the game as spectacle) is typically given primacy.

It is an exploration of the relationship between the game player and the sounds of the First-Person Shooter computer game. Utilizing the run 'n' gun sub-genre as an example, the book suggests that this relationship may be analyzed as an autopoietic acoustic ecology and it emphasizes the role of sound in enabling player immersion in the game environment. Covering a wide range of ideas, from autopoiesis to acoustic ecologies and soundscapes, from film sound theory to sonification and auditory icon design, this lucid analysis will be especially useful to game sound designers and games scholars or indeed anyone interested in the fascination that digital media arts exert.

Mark Grimshaw studied in South Africa, England and New Zealand where he gained his PhD. He is currently working at the University of Wolverhampton.

Paperback: 216 pages  
Publisher: VDM Verlag (May 21, 2008)

Language: English  
ISBN-10: 3639024087  
ISBN-13: 978-3639024081  
Source: Amazon.com

## RESEARCH and PROJECTS



### **Paper: The Importance Of Soundscape Research For The Assessment Of Noise Annoyance At The Level Of The Community. (2003)**

By B. Schulte-Fortkamp (Institute of Technical Acoustics, University of Berlin) and P. Lercher (Institute of Hygiene and Social Medicine, Innsbruck).

#### **ABSTRACT**

Multi-sectoral environmental health impact assessment, the perspective on sustainable development, environmental zoning, citizen involvement, preservation of quiet areas, consideration of "sensitive areas" and the design of "supportive environments" require new insights in the existing annoyance data new integrative research strategies.

The soundscape approach can contribute to these requirements, because its main aim is the study and the improvement of the relationship between the "aural space" and the living environment - the "soundscape" (Wrightson 2000). The sonic environment is seen here as mediator between humans, their activities and the environment. Depending on the "acoustic coloration" from the larger environment (geography, climate, wind, water, people, buildings, animals etc.) sound sources create "meanings" to the exposed and block or enable human activities, thoughts, feelings. Therefore, soundscape assessment is engaged in assessing acoustical but also other sensory, aesthetic, geographic, social, psychological and cultural modalities in the context of human activity across space, time, and society. Provided will be a short account of the variety of approaches, presented selected examples of current aspects of soundscape research, and intends to make the utility of the soundscape approach for the assessment of noise annoyance at the community level more visible. [Read Paper](#) (PDF online). Photo: B. Schulte-Fortkamp.

## OPPORTUNITIES:

### **Call for Submissions**

**Soundscape: The Journal of Acoustic Ecology - Volume 10, Number 1**

**Deadline for submission: July 31, 2010**

Editor: David Paquette

Theme: Sonic Ambiances

Daily places are heard, touched, explored, imagined and felt through the richness of our sensory experience. The contribution of these various senses, along with perceptual and affective mechanisms, create an ambiance. This issue examines the role of the soundscape, along with other sensorial models, in the making of ambiances. Contributions discussing the following topics, or any other relevant theme related to sound and ambiances, are welcome. Article length: 1500 to 3000 words.

- Architectural use of ambiances
- Immersive sonic arts and sound installations
- Sound and synesthesia
- Ambiance and the sense of place

Abstracts and bio should be sent to [david@sharawadji.org](mailto:david@sharawadji.org)

### **Call for submissions**

**Organised Sound: An International Journal of Music and Technology**

**Volume 16, Number 3. Issue thematic title: \*Sound, Listening and Place**

**Deadline, March 1, 2011**

**Date of Publication: December 2011**

**Publishers: Cambridge University Press**

In his provocative book, */Ecology without Nature: Rethinking Environmental Aesthetics*, /literary ecologist Timothy Morton suggests that much ecocritical nature writing makes the same Romantic assumptions it seeks to critique. He posits that a properly ecological view of the environment must challenge aestheticised views of nature, and be immersed rather than observational.

How can, and does, sound-based music 'rethink' environmental aesthetics? How can sound-based music, and writing on it, contribute to the ecocritical debate? What is sonic ecology in art?

This themed issue aims to move forward from the valuable foundations of early Acoustic Ecology and soundscape composition, considering related and different approaches sound-based music as ecological reflection of listening, sound and place.

Submissions may consist of papers, with optional supporting short compositions or excerpts, audio-visual documentation of performances and/or other aspects related to your submission that can be placed onto a DVD and the CUP website for "Organised Sound". Supporting audio and audio-visual material will be presented as part of the journal's annual DVD-ROM which will appear with issue 16/3 as well on the journal's website.

Properly formatted email submissions and general queries should be sent to: [os@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:os@dmu.ac.uk)

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**OPEN CALL for sound works.** Sonic Vigil V is the fifth annual sound art event held in Cork, Ireland and is curated by The Quiet Club.(Danny Mc Carthy& Mick O'Shea) This year we are issuing an OPEN CALL for Sound Works to be presented in four specially commissioned 'Sound Stations". These stations have been designed by students of the Cork Centre for Architectural Education and fabricated by them in the National Sculpture Factory. These four 'Sound Stations" will form part of the Sonic Vigil V event which will take place on Saturday the 17th July in [St. Fin Barre's Cathedral](#), one of Ireland's architectural treasures Please send your works before July 10th to [sonicvigil@ireland.com](mailto:sonicvigil@ireland.com)

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**September 30 - October 1, 2010**  
**Designing Soundscape for Sustainable Urban Development**  
**Scandic Ariadne hotel, Stockholm**  
**Participation fee: 500 SEK (approximately 50 EUR)**

Designing Soundscape for Sustainable Urban Development is a hands-on conference on the promotion of soundscapes of high acoustic quality in urban planning and design. The two-day program includes plenary lectures, workshops on successful soundscape cases, and field trips to experience locations. Welcome to Stockholm, the first European green capital. [Learn More.](#)

## WFAE: INFORMATION

✚ **WFAE MEMBERSHIP:** Become a member of a WFAE Affiliate organization. Download a [membership](#) form today.

### ✚ WFAE BOARD AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

- American Society for Acoustic Ecology (ASAE): [contact-asae@wfae.net](mailto:contact-asae@wfae.net)
- Australian Forum for Acoustic Ecology (FAEW): [contact-afae@wfae.net](mailto:contact-afae@wfae.net)
- Canadian Association for Sound Ecology (CASE): [contact-case@wfae.net](mailto:contact-case@wfae.net)
- Finnish Society for Acoustic Ecology (Suomen Akustisen Ekologian Seura (FSAE): [contact-fsae@wfae.net](mailto:contact-fsae@wfae.net)
- Foro Mexicano de Ecología Acústica (MFAE): [contact-mfae@wfae.net](mailto:contact-mfae@wfae.net)
- Forum fuer Klanglandschaft (FKL): [contact-fkl@wfae.net](mailto:contact-fkl@wfae.net)
- Hellenic Society for Acoustic Ecology (HSAE): [contact-hsae@wfae.net](mailto:contact-hsae@wfae.net)
- Japanese Association for Sound Ecology (JASE): [contact-jase@wfae.net](mailto:contact-jase@wfae.net)
- UK and Ireland Soundscape Community (UKISC): [contact-ukisc@wfae.net](mailto:contact-ukisc@wfae.net)

### ✚ WFAE AFFILIATE WEB SITES (Current):

- [American Society for Acoustic Ecology](#)
- [Australian Forum for Acoustic Ecology](#)
- [Canadian Association for Sound Ecology](#)
- [Finnish Society for Acoustic Ecology](#)
- [Forum fuer Klanglandschaft](#)
- [Japanese Association for Sound Ecology](#)

Issues of this publication dating back to 2004 are archived [online](#). Back copies of *Soundscape, The Journal of Acoustic Ecology* are also available.

The World Forum For Acoustic Ecology has a MySpace account and welcomes friends from around the world working in the field of acoustic-ecology to join us. If you have a MySpace account sign in and then access [WFAE MYSFACE](#) on line. Click on "Add Friend" and become a partner in creating this network gathering place for ear-minded friends on the Internet.

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