

Chapter 3: Elements of Sound: Three Scaffolded Assignments

By Sara Wilder, University of Maryland, College Park

featuring the work of Averi Ager, D'Arcee Neal, and Dorian Blue

1. "Prelude to a Dream" by Dorian Blue

In this audio remix example, titled "Prelude to a Dream," Dorian Blue uses musical elements and voices to explore a separation between sound and subject, creating a sense of disembodiment and unease.

Artist Statement

When I was putting together the sounds for this piece, titled "Prelude to a Dream," I was aiming to create a feeling of separation between sound and the subject, which I achieve through the use of disembodied sound. The piece starts off with two separate tracks that intertwine to lull the listener into the feeling of oddity and unease. One prevalent track in this piece, "Wild Calls," provides an eerie, screech-like sound to cultivate a feeling of unbalance and detachment. At 0:14, these tracks fade into a recording of disembodied singing, which was done purposefully to induce the feeling of slipping into a dreamlike state. At around 0:55, the song fades back into the sounds of indiscernible conversation, which is backed by an odd humming in the background. This was done to further the feeling of detachment and provide the listener with a continued sense of dreamlike state, through the use of tracks that have words that are present but distractingly indiscernible. The conversation fades into the conclusion of the piece, which is dominated by the singular sound of the "Wild Calls" track used throughout the piece. Through this piece, I hope that listeners will reflect deeper on what we consider to be strange, and why.

Transcript

[music: soft piano chords repeat as alternating low and high atonal, synthesized calls sound]

[A lone voice enters, singing a soft melody at odds with the atonal background calls:]

May the longtime sun shine upon you, all love surround you. And the good light within you guide your way on.

[The piano chords fade out. The calls sound softly as the voice sings again:]

May the longtime sun shine upon you, all love surround you. And the good light within you guide your way on, guide your way on.

[As the lone voice and calls fade out, indecipherable voices, speaking different languages enter, gaining volume, undergirded by a low electric hum.]

[Conversation begins to fade, and the atonal, screeching calls reverberate and echo.]

References

bastardwrio. (2017, September 10). wild calls [Audio file]. *Freesound*.

<https://freesound.org/people/bastardwrio/sounds/401826/>