

Grégoire Lorieux

Portrait prémonitoire d'Olivier Messiaen

Technical documentation

Portrait prémonitoire d'Olivier Messiaen

Création par Michael N'Guyen, Paris, décembre 2002

Caroline Cren, BlancMesnil, juin 2003

Thibault Walter, Paris, avril 2004

Alberto Rosado, Rome, février 2010

Alberto Rosado, Mexico, octobre 2010

Romain Beauchef, Metz, décembre 2010

Llorenç Prats, Salamanca, Spain, 10 juin 2011

Clare Hammond, Bangor, Wales, UK & Cardiff, Wales, UK, 17 et 19 mars 2014

Sooyeon Lim, TongYeong, Corée du Sud, 26 avril 2014

Technical rider

Portrait prémonitoire d'Olivier Messiaen for piano & tape

composer : Grégoire Lorieux

Grégoire Lorieux
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PA system

- 2 loudspeakers located on stage (preferred systems : L-Acoustics, d&b), system power must be coherent with venue size
- Low frequency loudspeakers reinforcement is preferred.
- Digital mixing desk (preferably Yamaha DM 1000/DM 2000)
- All necessary connections between the mixing desk and the stage (2 microphone lines minimum)

Microphones

- 2 microphones for amplification of the piano (type KM184 or Rode NT5)

For the pianist

- 1 ear-monitor system that needs a microphone line of its own from the mixing desk to the stage + adaptator jack 6.35 > jack 3.5
- 1 midi pedal (footswitch) (ends in jack 6'35' ♂)

MIDI and computer system

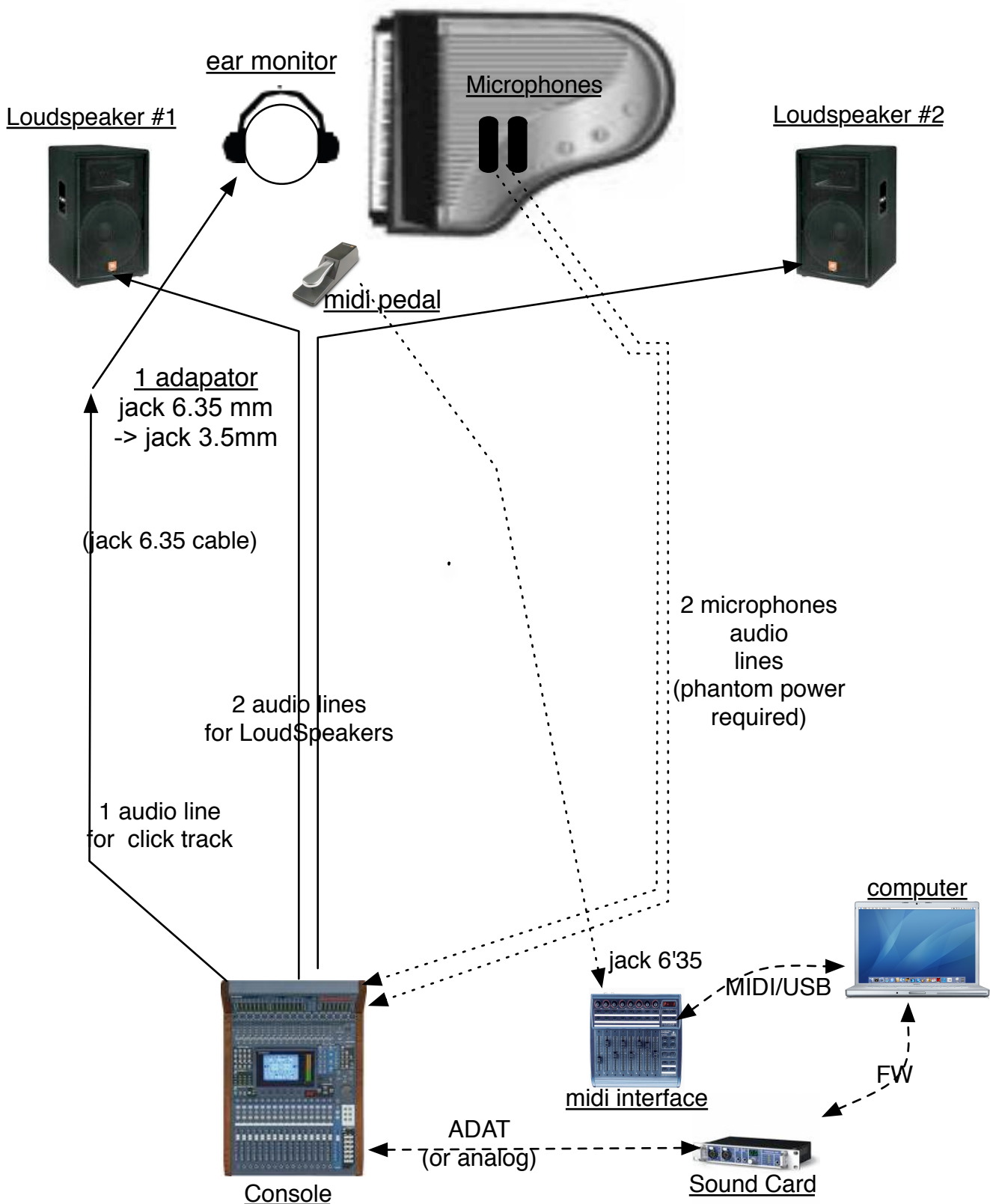
- 1 computer with all software materials required (see : «Software requirements» note)
- 1 sound card (type FireFace 400 or equivalent)
- 1 midi interface (type BCF2000 - needs a footswitch input in jack 6'35')

Piano setup

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As you will see, this piece is a eye-blink to the now old-fashioned style of Messiaen. To me and other people (like students of Conservatoires), it seems obvious that it is a quite humorous piece, at least at the beginning (like : "stop boring me with Messiaen, he was just a geek, and I don't want to like his music anymore, it's too kitsch").

The title is a allusion to the painting of Giorgio de Chirico "Portrait prémonitoire de Guillaume Appolinaire".

This piece was written in november- december 2001 in LIPM, Buenos Aires. and created in Paris by Michael n'Guyen in december 2001, with a video of the artist Nicolas Berthelot, and played again by Caroline Cren and Thibault Walter.

The electronics consist in 8 triggered sound files (see the score : Midi Ped). Look for a good fusion between the piano resonances and the tape.

Software requirements :

- a recent computer with OS X (or Windows), with :
- MaxMSP installed, or MaxMSP Runtime (version 5.0.7 at least, RunTime is a free software downloadable at www.cycling74.com)
- the materials of the folder "Portrait-electronics"

Usually, when playing this piece in a normal recital hall, you won't need to amplify the piano, and you will adjust the output level of the tape and the metronome during the performance.

But when playing in a large hall you may require amplification of the piano, and do a more complex balance with electronics.

Triggering events

You surely can play the piece alone with all this materials with such a light installation.

But you may need someone to be sure that each event runs the good way, and to do the balance between the piano and the tape.

The tape is launched with the space bar of the computer or the midi pedal.

In that case, you can ask a sound engineer or a computer musician to trigger some events you may find tricky to do.

Metronomes

in a previous version of the piece, the pianist had to take a metronome with a headphone (mini jack) to synchronize from the bar 38. It's the only part of the piece where the pianist needs to be exactly synchronized with the tape.

Now it's automatized, but you will need to put a little ear-monitor in your ear before to begin and make sure it won't drop from it.

3 midi files are set with upbeats and downbeats and launched with the corresponding events.

Ready, set, go

When you launch the patch
"_Portrait.maxpat" in Max :

- press init once
- turn on audio (red)
- select midi controller, put pedal mode to "test", test pedal (without launching the first sound), change the polarity if you need (normal, inverted)
- put pedal mode to "use"
- test the clic in the metronome area, adjust the level of the clic sound.
- set the output level
- you're ready to go.

