

DOUBLE REED NEWS OF INTEREST *(cont.)*



Oboe section of the Chicago Philharmonic (left to right): Anne Bach, Jennet Ingle, and Erica Burtner Anderson. Photo by Chicago Philharmonic violist Matt Mantell



Bassoon section of the Chicago Philharmonic (left to right): Lewis Kirk, John Gaudette and Steve Ingle. Photo by Chicago Philharmonic oboist Jennet Ingle

The PhiloGaïa Orchestra Projects: We love our planet! It lives, it sings!

Nobuaki Fuji & Matthias Meschede | Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris



The PhiloGaïa Orchestra's first concert for the general public: "Trip to the heart of the Earth" (Photo Courtesy: Sergey Abramenkov).

The PhiloGaïa Orchestra Project started from spontaneous improvisation sessions in Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris. Musicians in the institute have sought an original way of gathering our passions in geophysics and in music closer than ever. A concert held on November 18th 2016 in the amphitheater of INALCO, Paris was a first contact with the general public. It was funded by "Festival of ideas in Paris 2016"

DOUBLE REED NEWS OF INTEREST *(cont.)*

of Université Sorbonne Paris Cité and the music was composed by a young film-composer Baptiste Brice. The project will further seek opportunities and directions.

Background of the IPGP Orchestra

The Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris (IPGP) is an institute of higher education and research in Earth and Planetary Sciences, consisting of over 500 researchers, engineers, and Master/PhD students. The IPGP Orchestra was formally founded in 2012, initially to celebrate PhD and habilitation defenses (<http://www.ipgp.fr/en/institut/ipgp-orchestra>). As the number of members (with significant participation by musicians from “COGE”, a group of amateur/semi-professional musicians: <https://mgecoge.org/choeur-orchestre-etudiant-paris>) and types of instruments change from one concert to another, it is indeed challenging to arrange or compose multiple genres of music (classic, pop, jazz) for a chamber orchestra that sometimes consists only of one clarinet, one bassoon, and one cello. In the course of time, the orchestra has started to perform some concerts outside the institute and also to seek some original and exotic ways to express our passions in geophysics and in music.

Contemporary Musical Improvisation

One of our more striking recent events was a performance of “COSA RESTA DI NOI—Requiem” (<http://www.art-agenda.com/shows/ruben-montinis-cosa-resta-di-noi/>), a project led by Ruben Montini on March 31st in the Oratory of the Louvre, Paris, where N. Fuji and M. Meschede participated in playing constant live improvisations in on-site compositions by Giovanni Mancuso and Benjamin Patrier-Leitus. The project gathered over a hundred musicians and singers for four hours, allowing the composers to write music with the benefit of live communication with musicians who improvised in both classical and contemporary styles. Two of the authors have kept in touch with G. Mancuso since then, on an exchange of some ideas on this music experiment.

Guided Improvisations on Stories and Images

Several Saturday afternoon experimental improvisation sessions have been spontaneously held since autumn 2015 in order to explore numerous musical possibilities centered on the question of “How can we express ourselves with minimum guidance?” Some guided improvisation experiments were based on themes proposed by N. Fuji. For instance, a lengthy rendition of *Never Ending Paper* (<https://youtu.be/mQzhcXjZ3Jo>), which pokes fun at scientists’ struggles with non-accepted scientific papers, was played when IPGP was organizing a bi-institutional conference with the Earthquake Research Institute of University of Tokyo. *Wolfy Louise and Mary* (https://youtu.be/_Gy2JXLPYKw) is about a couple of European praying mantises and is a short homage to *Peter and the Wolf* by Prokofiev. Following his passion for geophysics, M. Meschede created a video of 3D rotating ray-images of phases of seismic body waves that propagate in the Earth’s interior. We improvised music on

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

DOUBLE REED NEWS OF INTEREST *(cont.)*

these images in a piece titled *Seismic Waves (Phases) Visualization* (<https://youtu.be/vZ80K3i4t3w>) by defining not written musical themes but only musical atmosphere and temperature. This experiment rapidly convinced us of the potential interest of mixing scientific products and improvised music.

PhiloGaïa Orchestra Project and the USPC call for Festival of Ideas of Paris 2016

We have begun to formalize our sequence of musical experiments as a scientific outreach tool. We call it the “PhiloGaïa Orchestra Project” (https://youtu.be/73s_0P6FLhk) and have started to promote it to creative competitions with the slogan “We love our planet! It lives, it sings!” The idea is to invite composers to provide us with musical themes that are inspired by beautiful figures in geophysical journals, on which we improvise with those figures on the screen during the concert.

Our project was accepted as a part of Festival of Ideas of Paris, run by Université Sorbonne Paris Cité (USPC), an umbrella university of IPGP. The call took place for the first time in 2016 in USPC with the theme “Être machine (Being a Machine).” This first public ‘geomusic’ experiment was built around the idea of a trip through the Earth’s interior.

Preparations

After being accepted to the festival, we contacted a number of composers. Baptiste Brice, a young composer who works mainly in movie music, kindly accepted the offer and we started to work together. M. Meschede and N. Fuji selected the five ‘pictures’ on which B. Brice was asked to supply sheet music with several ad lib chorus parts. IPGP communication service collected copyright-waived figures and videos from IPGP researchers while N. Fuji asked colleagues inside and outside IPGP for specifically relevant videos.

Concert

The concert (https://youtu.be/d7LfnIYzi_c) was held in the amphitheater of INALCO (Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales; one of the institutes within USPC), Paris. Despite the fact that the concert took place very early on Friday (17:30-18:30), there were around 200 people participating in the event. A PhD candidate from University of Lorraine (and former IPGP student) Valérie Payré presided over our show with clear and impressive speeches that introduced the audience to a trip from the Earth’s center to the surface: i) inner and outer core (inner core formation hypothesis); ii) magnetic field generated by outer core convection; iii) mantle convection; iv) earthquakes and tsunamis; v) surface. With videos and pictures rolling behind, the orchestra performed pieces for each of the five sections (and then the second one again as an encore!) with live musical interpretations of the pictures.

DOUBLE REED NEWS OF INTEREST *(cont.)*

Feedback

The feedback was very positive and the audience encouraged us to do more. Some schoolteachers came to us just after the concert to ask us for a performance for their pupils. The success of the work was due to the balance of the visual and musical art with the scientific outreach message. Since the project started from the idea that figures and videos produced for pure geophysics are artistic on their own and that improvised music could go well along with those images, the project was not necessarily self-explanatory. We solved this by using a narrator to explain all those figures in plain vocabulary, so that everyone could understand what they were hearing and watching. As the performance had the feel of an improvised science fiction short movie, the audience was more at ease than it would have been at a more typical educational event.

Future PhiloGaïa Projects

We will certainly develop this unique project in more sophisticated directions in art and science via live performances, as well as online videos. The project is always open for any suggestions. For instance, some IPGP researchers and students wanted to dance with images and the music. PhiloGaïa project can be a new tool for us to communicate novel scientific ideas (as some of videos in the 2016 event were very new). We are looking forward to our next PhiloGaïa adventures!

Acknowledgements

We thank all the participants to this PhiloGaïa project(s): Baptiste Brice (Composer for the 2016 event), Valérie Payré (Animator for the 2016 event/University of Lausanne/former IPGP), Elsa Amsellem (Finance service HEKLA/IPGP), Stefano Buscaglia (Violin), Adèle Malavialle (Violin), Clémence Gruget (Viola/ENS), Matthias Meschede (Cello and Didgeridoo/IPGP), Hugo Jiménez-Pérez (Bass guitar/IPGP), Clélia Philizot (Normal and small clarinet), Gildas Tilliette (Normal and bass clarinet), Nobuaki Fuji (Bassoon/IPGP), Jean-Pierre Cheve (Bassoon and Saxophone), Agnès Chounet (Piano/IPGP), Rodrick Barillot (Percussions), Alexis Da Costa (Recording), Sergey Abramenkov (Photo/IPGP), Raphaële Moeremans (Communication on internet/former IPGP), Emmelyne Mitard, Pierre-Olivier Foucault, Joël Dyon (Images and communication/IPGP), Marine Lasbleis (Images of inner-outer core/ELSI, Tokyo), Julien Aubert (Videos of magnetic field/IPGP) Takashi Nakagawa (Videos of mantle convection/JAMSTEC, Yokohama), Fabio Cramerì (Videos of mantle convection/Universitetet i Oslo), Nobuaki Fuji (Videos of Seismology/IPGP), Aurélie Jourdain (Videos of surface/IPGP), Bernadette Courgey, Lydia Zerbib (Finance service/IPGP), Eric van Lauwe (Timpani lending), Luna Rossa Studio (Percussions rent), Cyprien Sorel (Contact of musicians), Shihao Yuan, Irène Pesty (Instrument transportation/IPGP), Alain Durieux (Ideas), Anaïs Ibourichène, Virginie Durand, Kurama Okubo, Soufian Henchiri, David Au Yang, Manon Bickert, Thijs Franken, Chizu Kato, Élodie Müller (Ideas/encouragements/IPGP), Thomas Stoll, Tiphaine de Belloy

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

DOUBLE REED NEWS OF INTEREST *(cont.)*

(USPC Communication), Laura Lacour (INALCO Communication), Patrice Cogne (SACEM Communication)

Nobuaki Fuji has been an associate professor (maître de conférences) in Geophysics at the Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris since 2012. His university bassoon studies began at the University of Tokyo on 2001, where the orchestra's woodwind section was under the direction of Hitomi Sugawara, the former president of Japan's Bassoon Society. As a PhD student, Fuji organized concert tours with his musical friends from Tokyo to Taipei and Lisbon under Dr. Sugawara's direction.

Matthias Meschede is a postdoctoral researcher in Geophysics in Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris and an amateur cellist.

The Hunt for the Missing Wind Trio

Calling all Double Reed Enthusiasts!

Clive Fairbairn, Editor of *Double Reed News* (BDRS), seeks your help

The hunt is on for a trio by Ralph Vaughan Williams, which is listed in his catalogue on the RVW website but otherwise lost. It is called *Fantasia on Linden Lea* and was written for **John Parr**.

The RVW website suggests it is for oboe, clarinet and bassoon, although this is disputed and it may have been for flute, clarinet and bassoon (or even 'either/or'). Whichever way, it is a great loss to musicians, and wind players in particular, as it cannot currently be located. Correspondence about the piece exists between his wife, Ursula Vaughan Williams, his biographer Michael Kennedy, and his publisher Max Hinrichsen so its provenance is in no doubt. Its whereabouts, however, remains a complete mystery.

John Parr collected a large amount of music, copying a great many pieces by hand, and it is more than possible that a copy has found its way into private hands. I urge all members who may have heard of this, perhaps even played it, or, or have leads or ideas which the Society's committee can follow up to contact me on drn@bdrs.org.uk