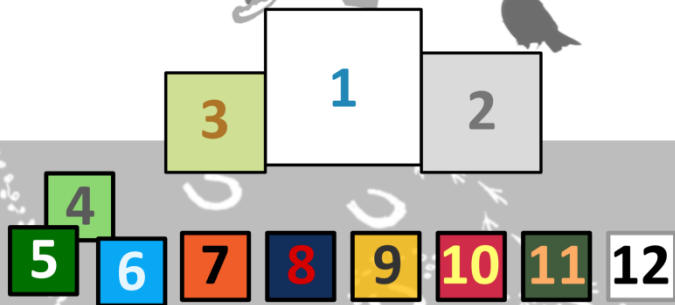


sound of the year!



It is usually a rhythmic, melodically - harmonically coordinated group of voices or instruments that is regarded as music. But today the diversity of instruments is narrower and narrower, until only one remaining: a loudspeaker. Simultaneously with that a weird reversal of terms takes place. The music has turned into *muzak*, meaning a wallpaper which we must adapt to, but which does not convey any true emotions, and to which nobody really listens. And vice - versa. In contrast to the monotone *muzak* smog, unintended non-planned sounds from the surroundings, so far considered ordinary background of little interest, become colorful music filled with feelings and worth listening. Music created by a group of instruments which is never completely known in advance, with complicated rhythms and harmony of its own kind. Music only little by little appearing at various levels to those, who like to walk with the ears open.

But not all of the environments have their unique sound. Some are just tediously humming or rumbling. The listeners of "concrete music" (in French *musique concrète*) first need to discover their own concert halls and little stages where something interesting is being played, before they can fall in listening. They must keep searching and training their ears and they must wish to hear something. And this is, perhaps, what distinguishes music from *muzak*.

“Sound of the year!” is a calendar, in a way. It is composed of twelve tracks inspired loosely by individual months of the year. Some tracks (3, 5, 7, 8, 9) were created by the author simply by pushing a *Record* button on his recorder, when he had placed microphones in an acoustically interesting location. With a piece of luck, if the place and the microphones were chosen well, and the sound source did not fall silent simultaneously with the start of recording (!), the resulting record was not manipulated any more – apart from cutting it acceptably short. Other examples (2, 4, 6, 10, 11, 12) consist of a series of individual pieces that fit to one another and, according to the author’s opinion, belong together, however, each was recorded separately in a different place, or time. The track #1, in addition, represents an assemblage of three takes of the same location stacked one above another. The aim was to capture the sound of a frozen river under a bridge, together with the sound of the bridge itself. It could have been achieved using multiple microphones and recording simultaneously from several directions, but the author had to go less expensive way, he recorded with just one pair of microphones successively at various positions, and then he mixed selected portions into the final track.

Recorded between 2005 – 2013.

Geographic coordinates of the tracks according to Google Maps:

- 1/ (49.993202,14.398506)
- 2/ (50.103327,14.363293), (50.589871,15.26116), (49.592902,17.253072), (49.593654,17.253812), (49.984193,14.363217), (49.984007,14.362573)
- 3/ (50.096069,14.356501)
- 4/ (49.576233,16.985702), (50.476216,15.469645)
- 5/ (50.037524,14.531906)
- 6/ (48.725485,2.260227), (48.705335,2.127651), (50.483163,15.441884)
- 7/ (43.210024,5.354412)
- 8/ (50.556347,14.060029)
- 9/ (49.597854,17.262277)
- 10/ (48.836708,2.281003), (50.053171,14.437342), (48.794362,2.129779)
- 11/ (50.033644,14.53199), (50.063145,14.429317)
- 12/ (49.932936,14.121526)

This album is not intended for repetitive listening. Put it away, please, as well as headphones, players and other substitutes. At every moment you may meet something more interesting and, in contrast to the experience delivered in the marionette way, you have a chance to hear it **with your own ears.***

**marionette* - a puppet controlled by wires





zvirecihudba.cz – sound of the year!

- 1/ January. Under the bridge. (1:18 min.)
- 2/ February thaw. (3:07 min.)
- 3/ March. Siskins at the feeder. (1:11 min.)
- 4/ April. Bee in ear. (2:13 min.)
- 5/ May. Dialogue of blackbirds. (2 :27 min.)
- 6/ June. (3 :30 min.)
- 7/ July. See in a cave (Les Calanques). (2 :20 min.)
- 8/ A meadow in August, tribute to Peter Eötvös. (1 :05 min.)
- 9/ September. Wailing wind in St. Wenceslas' cathedral in Olomouc (5 :08 min.)
- 10/ October. Air. (1:37 min.)
- 11/ November. Wind. (1:35 min.)
- 12/ December walk along a brook. (4:27 min.)

total: 29:58 min.