

Artist Statement: Sound Flow

Sound Flow acts as a visual representation of sound and music. My idea was to translate the frequency and amplitude of the song into colors, shapes and movement. The viewer would then have a visual feedback of the sounds being heard and would therefore be able to have an augmented experience with the song since it would affect two of his senses at once. My project can be used with any desired song but I specifically chose my personal compositions for the presentation. The user simply has to press the mouse in order for the song to be changed. The round particles are created, expanded and moved according to the frequency and amplitude of the song. The higher the frequency of the song is, the more particles are created and the larger each particle becomes. An acceleration force is also applied to the particles which affect their movement. The artistic intent behind the round particles was to demonstrate how sound is dispersed in space in the shape of a circle. The many particles represent how sound is everywhere in our lives despite us not being able to see it. Alongside the round particles, there are butterflies displayed on screen. Low amplitudes of song cause the butterflies to turn blue, medium amplitudes cause them to turn red and high amplitudes cause them to turn yellow. I chose the three primary colors since there are the most important colors of the spectrum and because they each cause a different feeling to the viewer. I specifically chose butterflies because of the butterfly effect. It is a theory which states that a small change in one state of a deterministic nonlinear system can result in large differences in a later state. In the case of my butterflies I added randomness through perlin noise in their path which then figuratively has an effect on the motion of the waves in the background. The waves are put in motion with respect to perlin noise and change heights with respect to the amplitude of the song. When the amplitude reaches a certain threshold the black and white colors are inversed. The artistic intent behind the waves was to show how music is in continuous motions just as waves and how big changes in the amplitude of the music can cause drastic changes of height in the waves just as in our perception of the music. The black and white colors represent the duality between the tension and release aspects of music which give direction and unpredictability to the song. Just as the ying and yang with the color white representing order (tension or a build-up) and black representing disorder (release), the two sides are in constant combat and one side can lead to the other.