**INSTRUMENT**

For my instrument, I chose to translate the sound of the highway close to my childhood home into music. For nearly a decade of my childhood, there was extensive construction on MoPac/Texas Loop 1. As the project progressed and neighbors complained about the noise, the city erected huge barriers on the edges of the project to diffuse sound. I was always fascinated by these slabs of concrete and wondered about the engineering behind them.

I moved back to Austin from NYC at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. I instantly noticed the lack of traffic noise that I had been accustomed to in the East Village, except for a low churning from MoPac just a couple of blocks away. Over the course of my 16 months back in Austin, I noticed the sounds of this highway marking various events throughout the day:

* The stillness of 6:00am when many are still waking up and the city is closest to silence.
* The business of midday as many rush around town and the wheels churn steadily across the pavement.
* The heat, frustration, and horns of 5:00pm as thousands are stuck in traffic and wishing they were home.

To capture these sounds, I strapped a raspberry pi with a vibration sensor to these walls and collected an hour of data at midday. These data are then used to trigger samples I have taken from the highway at the timestamps they occur. For live performance, I control the dilation of time as well as the audio effects being applied to the samples.