1.- Write a ca. 500 word response to one of the CROTCHETS, QUAVERS...AND SILICON PARCHMENT concerts. If you attended both concerts you may write two responses for extra credit.

As you know, I had was unable to attend the show due to my work schedule. I did however listen to the Styrotron piece multiple times, as well as a piece called My life has been filled with terrible misfortune by Sergio Luque. I the Styrotron piece, the first thing I observed was the wide variety of timbres you can generate with such a simple instrument. I tried to imagine what the piece would sound like based off the title and what you said in class, but I was wrong in my original assumption. While listening, I thought about what sounds, natural or mechanical, different sections reminded me of, and I came up with the following: Beginning part reminded me of a dolphin sound, then an industrial, heavy steam machine swept in and dispersed into what reminded me of bats screeching in a cave. The machine noise returns somewhat abruptly, and for a while it once again sounds like several hardworking industrial machines operating. The panning on this heavy sound was really impressive, and made me feel like I was in the center of a busy factory. Once again the machines wind down and there are clicks that almost seem like the power toggle for these machines. The rest of the piece just fades out. One observation I thought about was that the piece modeled a standard work day in a factory. At night, machines are silent and the more natural, higher pitched sounds are prominent. When the work day starts, machines occupy the majority of the sound until they are “turned off” at the end of the day.

I really enjoyed the panning and broad range of dynamics throughout the piece. In terms of what was happening on the computer side, I have no clue, but I thought it did a good job creating a brad spectra of sound throughout the piece. It would have been cool to see it preformed, as I could probably make better inferences on what you were doing as the performer. I think the panning made the sounds appear more realistic in space, even though I was using headphones. It is easy to be too excessive on panning, but I thought this piece was a good compromise.

The second piece, My life has been filled with terrible misfortune, was harder for me to enjoy because the volumes to me were too dynamic. Some parts were way too quiet to the point of being hardly audible, then later parts I had to turn down. I appreciate a dynamic volume piece, but this was too much. The sounds toward the end of a bowed instrument being processed through a computer were very interesting. Some of the deeper drones sounded like the higher harmonics were being filtered, and some of the higher ranged sounds reminded me of Styrotron sounds. I think the reason for this is both pieces used a bow for many of the sounds. I also really like the trumpet type tone, that I think was created by the stringed instrument going through an amplitude envelope to be more like a trumpet. Overall I liked the piece but thought it had some volume issues.