Assignment 1 – Miniature Concrète
2008/2009 Academic Year
IAT 380-3: Sound Design
School of Interactive Arts and Technology

Instructor: Philippe Pasquier
Teaching Assistant: Andrew Hawryshkewich

Description
The first sound design project consists of the creation of a musique concrète piece assembled and mixed in ProTools. The piece will use a variety of recorded sounds, sound effects and found sounds. Along with the piece itself, you are required to provide a short written report presenting information on the motivations behind your piece.

Requirements and constraints
- The piece must be between 50-70 seconds in length
- The composition must use between 8 and 800 recorded sounds, sound effects and found sounds (including at least 3 sounds recorded by yourself)
- The ProTools project must use a minimum of 3 tracks
- The ProTools project must use at least one automation
- The final project must contain no more then 15 seconds of recognizable speech (of course, it can contain none)
- The final project must be mixed down to a 44.1kHz, 16bit Stereo and exported in the WAV file format (.wav)

Deliverables
For this first sound design project, you will deliver a data CD, with the following directory structure:
- 'Your Complete Name Here' - 'Your Work's Title' (A main folder with your name and the work's title on it)
    - 'Your Complete Name Here' - Assign 1.wav: The final mixdown of your first assignment
    - 'Your Name Here' - Assign 1 Writeup.(PDF/doc/odt/txt/rtf/docx): The one-page report for your first assignment
    - 'Your Name Here' - Assign 1 - ProTools Project: The actual project folder used by ProTools, just copy it over and burn the entire folder
        - Audio Files: This folder should contain /all/ of your sounds used
        - 'Project File Name'.ptf : The ProTools project file, so we can open your project to see how it was assembled
        - Fade Files, Region Groups, Session Files Backups,WaveCache.wfm... and any other files/folders automatically created by ProTools

The written report will include:
- Your name, student number and the title of your work (preferably at the top of the page)
- A half page description of your work; your motivation, the ideas involved (between 150 and 300 words)
- A list of the sounds used, in the following format:

    - 'File Name'.wav

- Length mn:ss

- Sound description: what is it/where found/recorded (date found/recorded).

- For each of the sounds used you will indicate which part of the sound was used. For example, you may have a 5min recording of a Skytrain station, but you used only the part between 1:23 and 1:34 in it.

- Any complementary information that you may judge useful

Evaluation

You will be marked on:
- Adherence to the requirements and constraints, in particular the length; anything longer or shorter then 50-70 seconds will be marked down accordingly (1 percent per second)
- Technical qualities: signal to noise ratio; fade-in/fade-outs, no clicks/pops
- Aesthetic qualities and originality.

The work is due on Wednesday 1st of October 2008 (before midnight).
The late policy is simple: 5% per day. This is an individual work and the usual rules on plagiarism apply.

Notes

Here is a list of possible ideas to start with. These are just here to illustrate the type of project ideas that are acceptable but this is in no way any obligation to choose one of these (be creative, create your own topics):
- Vancouver's urban soundscape
- Auditory narrative of an abstract painting
- Abstract textures from water
- Rhythmic adventure in kitchen sounds
- Musical exploration of a forest
- A sound portrait of an object

Good luck!