

Luigi Ceccarelli

Exsultet

for 8 track magnetic tape

performers: Kantores 96 diretto da Giacomo Bonifacio Baroffio.

voices: Giacomo Bonifacio Baroffio, Maurizio Verde,
Letizia Butterin, Kim Soo Jung, Lee Sun Ah.

Electronic sound frequently lacks memory. For this reason many electroacoustic musicians use concrete recognizable sounds to compose musical works. Music needs much more than pure acoustic phenomena to arouse emotions capable of reaching the unconscious depths of both the composer and the listener.

Use of technology can help a composer magnify his ability of arousing emotions.

In this work the Gregorian chant has provided a moving and inspirational point of departure which works as atavic memory for all of Mediterranean and Eastern cultures.

Exsultet uses the text and melody of "Exsultet": the ancient gregorian version of the Christian liturgy. A soloist begins the composition conventionally by singing the original version. Space, clearly artificial, is the only variant.

The voices of the other singers slowly follow one by one. However, all the vowel sounds (that is the tuned sounds) have been electronically removed and only consonants have been maintained.

In antithesis to this material, a second type of treatment of the material (in which tuned vowel sounds stand out) has been adopted.

Besides "Exsultet", another two chants: the "Alleluia-Pascha Nostrum" and the "Alleluia-De Profundis" have been used for this elaboration. These pieces were sung in the Fossanova Abbey and recorded in a way that greatly enhanced reverberation of the surroundings. In order to make the variations and the overlapping sounds generated by the acoustics of the Abbey more perceptible all the sounds have been temporally time-stretched using the technique of "stretching" from eight to ten times. The time-stretching of the reverberation generates a very rich and varied sound texture. Halfway through the piece, the entire text of "Exsultet" is recited in a whisper by one singer overlapping the

sound. Even this type of recitation -in which the text remains unperceptable - acquires value as a texture of quite a diverse genre.

The computer processing, editing and mixage of "Exsultet" have been realized in Rome at Edison studio.

Since the beginning of 1996 the vocal Ensemble Kantores '96 has collaborated with composers Alessandro Cipriani, Luigi Ceccarelli and Emanuele Pappalardo searching for a common ground between gregorian chant and the music of our time. The idea of the concert is that of alternating in the same event the ancient gregorian chant and the new electroacoustic compositions based on the same chants.