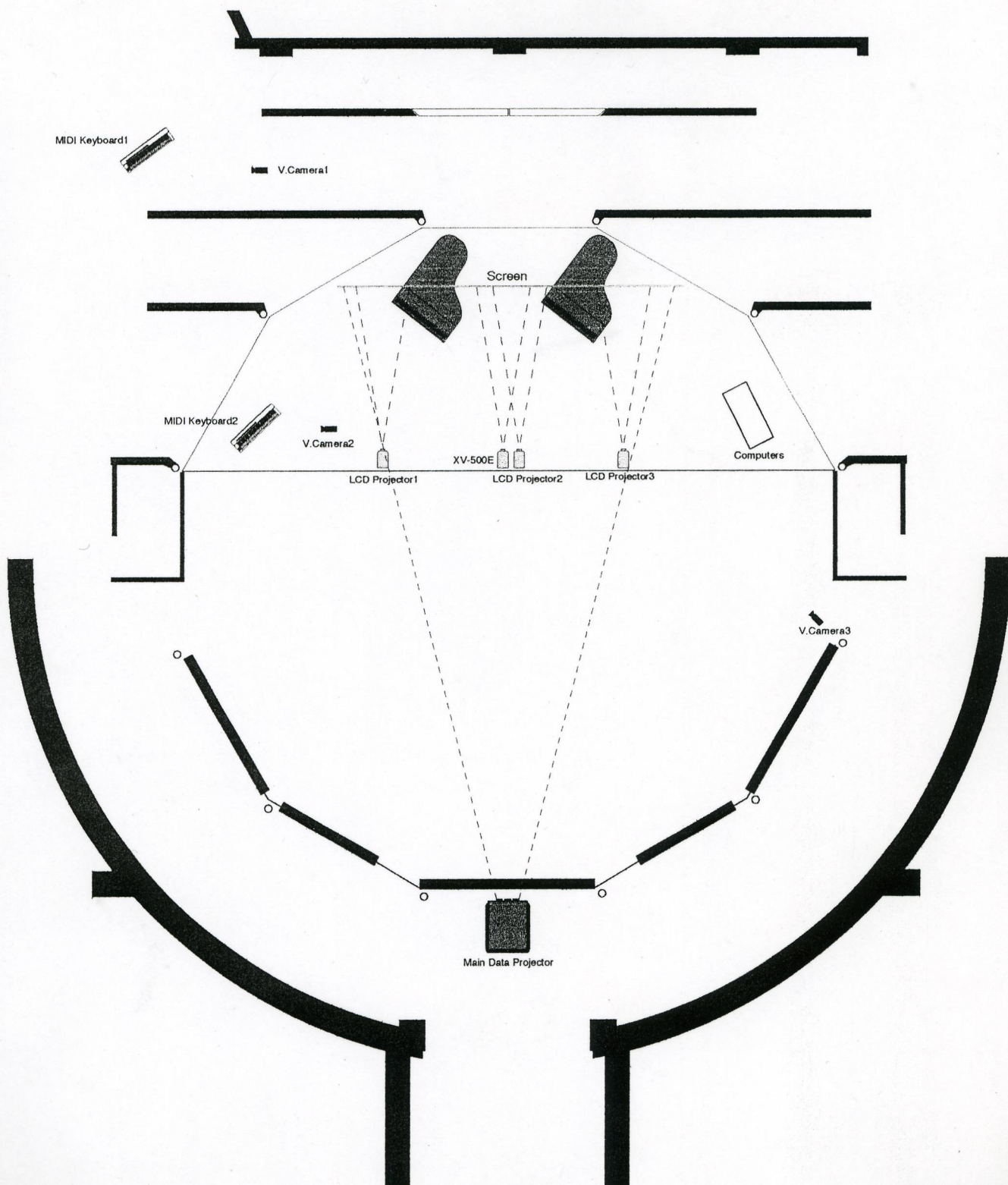


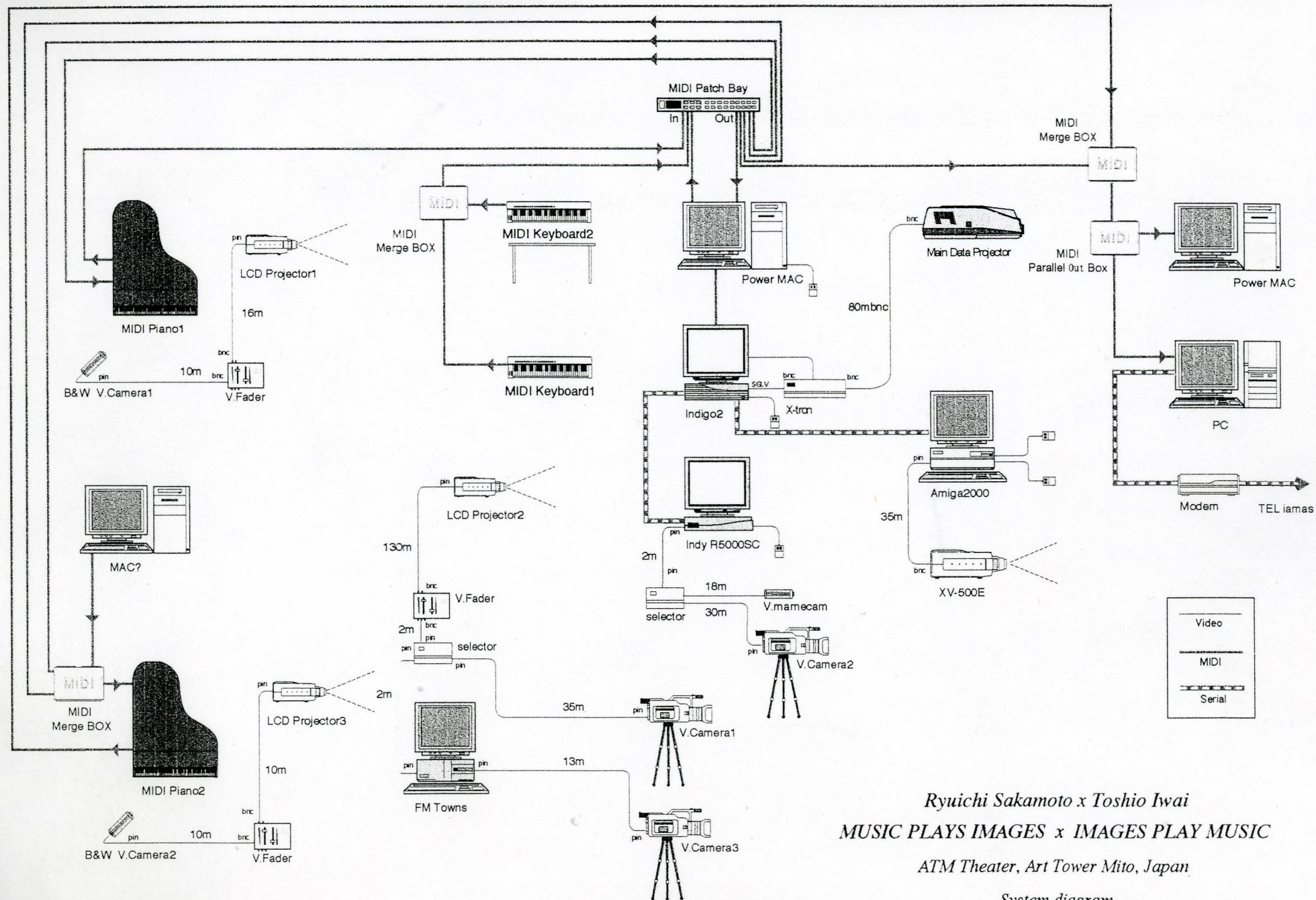
I43



Ryuichi Sakamoto x Toshio Iwai
MUSIC PLAYS IMAGES x IMAGES PLAY MUSIC

ATM Theater, Art Tower Mito, Japan

Ground plan



Ryuichi Sakamoto x Toshio Iwai
MUSIC PLAYS IMAGES x IMAGES PLAY MUSIC

ATM Theater, Art Tower Mito, Japan

System diagram

1-53

Music Plays Images x Images Play Music

Ryuichi Sakamoto x Toshio Iwai

1996

Interactive Multimedia Performance

Part of the contemporary music series at Art Tower Mito (Mito-city, Japan), this event was based on the idea of Ryuichi Sakamoto playing Toshio Iwai's installation "Piano ~as image media." Through e-mail correspondence Sakamoto and Iwai devised various techniques for making images and music simultaneously. Basically, the MIDI signal generated by Sakamoto's playing was turned into images in real time by a computer. Shapes corresponding to the strength and length of each individual note were projected onto a giant screen on the stage, creating the illusion of music flying out of the piano in the form of light. In addition to the imagized music, images were musicalized as points of light bounced from the screen to play the piano, or images flowing from Sakamoto's playing activated a second piano. The systems Iwai created allowed feedback in various directions among the images, the sounds, and the humans and machines that were manipulating the images and sounds. As a further, experimental element, the performance was broadcast in real time over the Internet and distant audience members were able to play the piano and jam with Sakamoto by sending data to the performance space.