

## Dry Pool Soundings

Dry Pool Soundings is a movement work which observes acoustic interaction between a highly directional loudspeaker and the performance space. The loudspeaker was developed under a research grant to Composers Inside Electronics from the National Endowment For The Arts, and the work itself was made in a residency at Media Study/Buffalo, also with support of the National Endowment.

"Figuring that, if I could pinpoint a sound and aim it, I could make moving sound images, I've made a loudspeaker which produces a beam of sound, much as a film projector produces a beam of light. In testing the speaker, I put through it a continuous train of clicks, aimed the sound beam across the room, and listened.

Something wonderful occurred. An image of the clicking sound appeared at the other end of the room, but there was also a new sound: a clear, bell-like pitch located right in my ear - a response from the room to the excitation of the sound beam. Slowly moving the loudspeaker to direct the beam around the room, I heard other pitches. Searching in this way, I uncovered a little scale - a set of pitches inherent in the space. The room became a melody instrument.

In this piece, I play the instrument that is this space. Since the phenomenon is position-dependent, each of us will hear his or her own melody, a melody which is a function not only of the room and my movement, but also of your position in the room.

Moving images of the sound should also be apparent."

- From the program notes for  
the premiere performance,  
May, 1979