

FontanaMixer

generative sound environment after "Fontana Mix" (1958) by John Cage
version 5.0 (ARM) - released 13 April 2024

© 2004-2024 by Karlheinz Essl

<http://www.essl.at/works/fontana-mixer.html>

Alert

By default, macOS Sierra/Mojave/Catalina will block the installation of apps that are not from the Mac App Store or created by identified developers. If you are unable to open FontanaMixer on your Mac please follow the three steps below or go to Macworld.com for help.

1. In Finder, control-click or right click on **FontanaMixer_5.0-ARM.app**
2. Select "Open" from the top of contextual menu that appears.
3. Click "Open" in the dialog box. If prompted, enter an administrator name and password.

Licence

„FontanaMixer” is a composition of Karlheinz Essl based on John Cage's concept piece Fontana Mix (1958). It is distributed as shareware and protected by copyright. As far as the entire content of the original distribution is not changed and no money is charged, this program may be spread freely and can also be included in CD-ROMS and Internet archives.

The work provided here for download is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 2.5 License. You are free to copy, distribute, display, and perform the work under the following conditions:

- Attribution: You must attribute the work in the manner specified by the author or licensor.
 - Noncommercial: You may not use this work for commercial purposes.
 - No Derivative Works: You may not alter, transform, or build upon this work.
- For any reuse or distribution, you must make clear to others the license terms of this work. Any of these conditions can be waived if you get permission from the copyright holder.

Your fair use and other rights are in no way affected by the above.

About

FontanaMixer is a generative sound environment based on John Cage's conceptual piece "Fontana Mix" (1958) which can be seen as a set of instructions for creating any number of compositions. The "score" supplies a number of transparent foils with dots, lines and graphs which have to be overlapped in random positions and placed over a page that contains 6 curved and intermingled lines. By measuring positions of crossing lines one will obtain 6 parameter values which are needed to determine a single sound event. The choice of the parameters is free.

Cage used this (graphical) random procedures to create music which is free of personal taste - a music which sounds just by its own, like nature: *"It is therefore very useful if one has decided that sounds are to come into their own, rather than being exploited to express sentiments or ideas of order."* (John Cage: History of Experimental Music in the United States; in: Silence, 1961).

In 2004, I received a commission by the festival WIEN MODERN for creating a new realization of this piece. After starting using the graphical procedures as they were described in the score, I realised that I would not come any further: It would have taken me months to finish the piece if I had measured thousands of parameter values. Instead of the graphical random generator that John Cage supplies with his piece, I used realtime random generators in a computer program written in Max/MSP. By sticking to the concept of Cage I created a version which duration is not limited, but infinite, and which would always create new and unforeseeable structures.

The structural core of FontanaMixer is a realtime granular synthesis engine that was originally developed for my realtime sound shredder **REplay PLAYer** which is distributed as shareware:

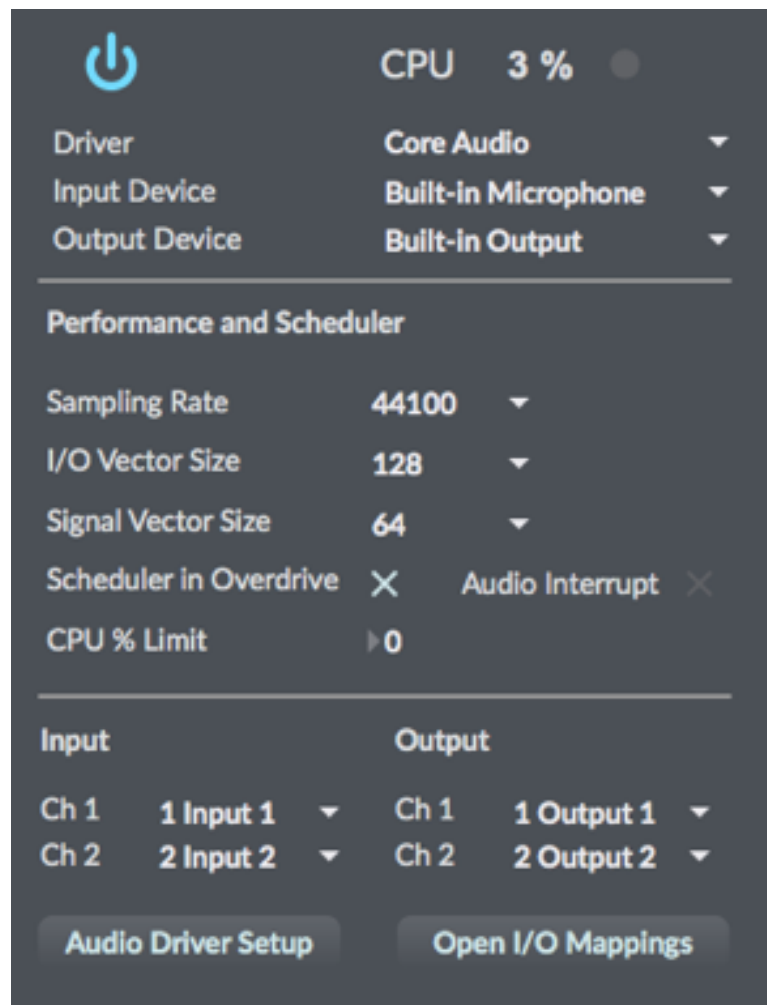
<http://www.essl.at/works/replay.html>

This sound generator creates new variants and hybrids of a given sound material, and is controlled by randomly obtained values for compositional parameters like phrase length, speed, grain duration, granular offset, transposition and reverb.

Getting started

- 1) Double-click the application **FontanaMixer_5.0-ARM.app**
- 2) After launching the program, a window "Audio Status" appears. Here

you can set the parameters for your audio setup. If you don't use an external audio interface, use these settings in the upper panel:



Afterwards, switch on audio by clicking on the power button in the upper left corner. It will turn blue.

3) Start the sound generation process by switching the pop-up menu in the top-left corner from "stop" to "start".

4) Listen as long as you wish...

Replacing sounds

By default, **FontanaMixer** is equipped with four sounds that represent different sonic worlds: HUMAN (the voice of John Cage himself), TECHNIQUE (street traffic), NATURE (birds singing), and ART (an abstract

sound created by Karlheinz Essl).

In order to substitute those sounds, go to the the "Sounds" menu and select "Replace Sound #..." A dialog box appears and ask you which sound to load. The format can be AIFF, WAVE or MP3. It is recommended to use mono files with a duration below 5 minutes (2 minutes recommended).

System Requirements

- * Apple Macintosh computer (Intel/Silicon)
- * macOS 11 or later

New features in vs. 5.0

- compiled in 64-bit ARM, runs natively on Intel or Silicon processors
- runs with macOS 11 or higher

Contact

Prof. Dr. Karlheinz Essl
c/o Studio kHz
An der Donau-Au 1
A-3400 Klosterneuburg
Austria / Europe
<mailto:khz@essl.at>
<https://www.essl.at>

Copyright & Legal Stuff

This software is copyrighted by Karlheinz Essl and others. The following terms apply to all files associated with the software unless explicitly disclaimed in individual files.

The authors hereby grant permission to use, copy, and distribute this software and its documentation for any purpose, provided that existing README file containing this copyright notice is retained in all copies and that this notice is included verbatim in any distributions. This version only works fully functional with a registration code that is supplied as soon as the shareware fee has been paid.

IN NO EVENT SHALL THE AUTHORS OR DISTRIBUTORS BE LIABLE TO ANY PARTY FOR DIRECT, INDIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF THE USE OF THIS SOFTWARE, ITS DOCUMENTATION, OR ANY DERIVATIVES THEREOF, EVEN IF THE AUTHORS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGE.

THE AUTHORS AND DISTRIBUTORS SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIM ANY WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE,

AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. THIS SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED ON AN "AS IS" BASIS, AND THE AUTHORS AND DISTRIBUTORS HAVE NO OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE MAINTENANCE, SUPPORT, UPDATES, ENHANCEMENTS, OR MODIFICATIONS.

Klosterneuburg, 13 April 2024

SDG