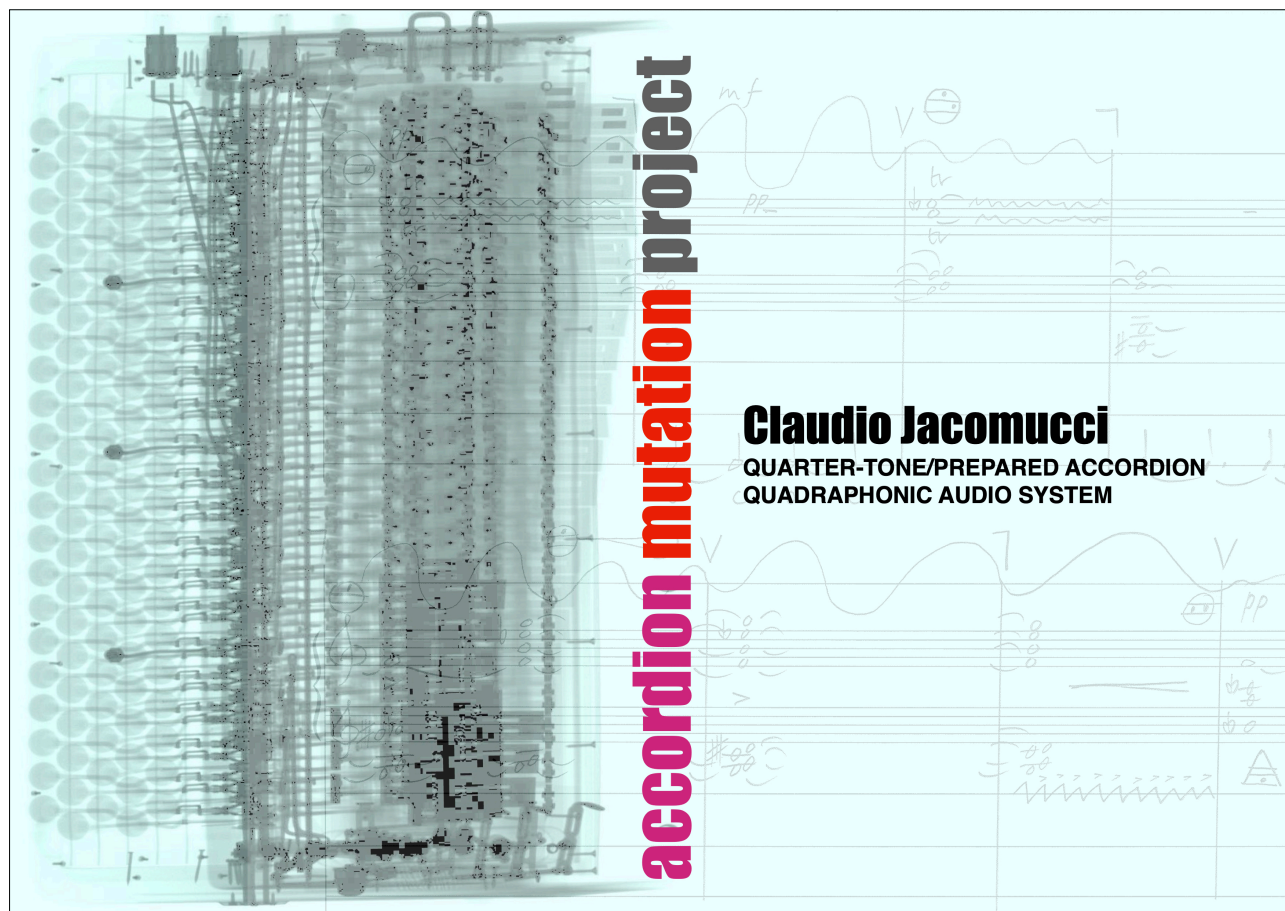


Accordion Mutation project

Claudio Jacomucci, microtonal/prepared accordion and quadraphonic audio system



Claudio Jacomucci

Le Città Invisibili (2021) for microtonal/prepared accordion and quadraphonic audio system *

Skywave (2024) for microtonal/prepared accordion **

* Supported by Fonds PodiumKunsten NL

** Commissioned by AskolSchonberg/Holland Festival

Audio demos

<https://claudiojacomucci.bandcamp.com/album/le-citt-invisibili>

<https://claudiojacomucci.bandcamp.com/track/skywave>

www.claudiojacomucci.com

Claudio Jacomucci is an eclectic musician with a strong interest in contemporary music forms. His works are originated from an intimate knowledge of the accordion and characterised by a highly sophisticated feeling for its sound and expressive potential, exploring its most extreme sounds, its extended possibilities to be re-shaped and re-invented. He plays a prototype of **microtonal and prepared accordion** that he has designed and realised. The sonic potential of this instrument is absolutely surprising and unexpected, never heard before from any kind of accordion type. A radical mutation of the accordion sonic identity appears in these two inspiring works of great imagery:

Le Città Invisibili is inspired by Italo Calvino's masterwork which explores imagination through brief prose poems describing fifty- five fictitious cities that are narrated by Marco Polo to the emperor Kublai Khan. His descriptions can be read as parables or meditations on culture, language, time, memory, death, or the general nature of human experience. The cities are divided into eleven thematic groups: Cities and memory, Cities and names, Cities and desire, Hidden cities, Thin cities, Cities and the deads, Cities and signs, Cities and the sky, Cities and eyes, Continuous cities, Trading cities.

"I have chosen one city for each group and composed a music piece inspired to those descriptions. Each of these short compositions is based on a specific resource or technique of the microtonal/prepared accordion.

In the live performance of the work, the accordion interacts with its alter-ego on the loudspeakers being mirrored by a quadraphonic audio system. In fact the electro-acoustic support is used mainly to multiply accordions, changing the source and direction of sound, echoing, distorting, amplifying and highlighting the microscopic world of sound of the instrument that is hardly audible in a normal acoustic listening.

No type of sound processing has been performed on the sounds reproduced by the speakers, not even filtering or equalisation. The quadriphonic audio system only playback pre-recorded accordion sound in multiple tracks".

Zaira/Irene/Fedora/Berenice/Ottavia/Eusapia/Olivia/Eudossia/Valdrada/Leonia/Ersilia

"When I was a child I liked listening to short wave and amateur radio with my father, browsing the thousand of frequencies at night and waiting for the "skywave", the fascinating phenomena of propagation of radio waves reflected back toward Earth from the ionosphere. Skywave propagation may travel beyond the horizon, at intercontinental distances.

In radio ether there is always noise, from the sun, power stations, weather disturbances, cosmic rays. In the midst of static, fadings, noises, codes and other signals, you may suddenly catch the skywave bringing fragments of exotic music emerging and disappearing after few seconds from a chaotic universe of electro-magnetic waves. I used to image these sonic fragments as if they were carried by the wind from the other side of the globe.

My work for quarter-tone accordion, with prepared reeds recalls this kind of listening, with multiple layers of dynamic waves, beating oscillations, vibrato, pulsations, distorted and combination tones, with fragments and motifs of music that the accordion makes even more like islands of "human nostalgia" in an electro-acoustic and digital ocean.

Skywave was composed for Mutability, a multimedia project by Yannis Kyriakides, Darien Brito, Theun Mosk and commissioned by Holland Festival/Asko|Schönberg Ensemble Amsterdam in 2024."

Technical requirements

The approximate duration of the program is 60 minutes

Specifics:

4 Active speakers (quad): 2 front stages and 2 back

4 XRLcables (from the stage to the speakers, ca 20 meters)

Power supplies available on stage

1 chair

1 music stand

