“Improvisations over Water” ~ Music on Earth Day

April 22, 2008, 8 p.m.
The Music Gallery, Toronto

[prelude: installation in Music Gallery entrance]

Four Forty, Steve Mann
A perfectly pure tone cannot exist within a finite duration. The player will open a soundproof box to allow a valve-maintained tuning fork to be heard for exactly four minutes and forty seconds, after which time it will be closed. This infinitely long song invites the listener to contemplate the simplest of musical textures.

“This is not a water instrument” A. Garten, S. Mann, R. Janzen

“This is a water instrument” R. Janzen

Improvisations over Water
Ryan Janzen, hydraulophone
John Kameel Farah, piano and pipe organ

Demonstration of hydraulophone by inventor Steve Mann. The hydraulophone is a flute that runs on water instead of air, and it is capable of playing more than one note at the same time (giving rise to polyphonic embouchure and fluidly varying microtonal sound textures). Demonstrations will be given by way of example with Mann’s “Minor Modifications” to children's songs, such as: “Twinkle Twinkle Star of Hope”; “Row Row Row”; “Summertime”; “Rock Christina.”

string/stream (improvisations continued)
J.K. Farah, piano
Nick Storring, cello
R. Janzen, hydraulophone

Music from Earth, Water, Air, Fire, and Idea:
1. Earth (solid), piano (J.K. Farah) and cello (Nick Storring);
2. Water (liquid), hydraulophone (Ryan Janzen);
3. Air (gas), idratmosphone (Steve Mann) and pipe organ (J.K. Farah);
4. "Fire" (plasma), plasmaphone (Steve Mann);
5. Idea (informatics), brainwave quintephone (Ariel Garten).

Music modeled after R. Janzen’s five-phase

You are welcome afterwards to join us at the front for further demonstrations, Q&A, music, and fun.