

Hello everyone!

CI Music Hour Recap 3/3/22

Last week Alfred Surenyan introduced our group to the Theremin. Alfred is a Los Angeles based composer, musicologist, and music educator. He is the founder and director of the [Andromeda Electric Orchestra](#), which combines the sounds of traditional orchestral and modern electronic instruments.

We learned that the theremin was invented by engineer, Leon Theremin, over one hundred years ago. The instrument has two antennas- one round antenna which controls the instrument's volume and one straight antenna which controls pitch. The instrument is contactless, meaning the musicians only need to move their hands near these antennas to create a sound. However, these characteristics make the instrument quite difficult to play accurately as a musician must know exactly where in relation to each antenna to place their hand in order to create desired sound.

Alfred explained how Clara Rockmore was the first individual who later wrote a musical methods book on how to play the theremin. She was also one of the most renowned theremin players of her time. You can watch her perform a piece called "The Swan" by Saint-Saëns here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSzTPGINa5U&ab_channel=yaoikan1981. The theremin also gained quite a bit of popularity in the 1970s in the rock n roll scene. Alfred and some group members pointed out that the theremin also made an appearance in some famous TV shows such as My Favorite Martian, Star Trek, and Big Bang Theory.

Lastly, Alfred introduced us to two of his theremins and performed some of his own compositions for the group. You can listen to more of his music here: <https://alfredsurenayan.bandcamp.com/album/the-road-less-traveled>. Participants shared that they found the instrument to sound surprisingly pleasant with their cochlear implants.

Tomorrow's Music Hour 3/10/22

Tomorrow we will have another get-to-know-you music hour! For those of you who weren't able to join us for this last time, do not worry! We plan to have one of these hours once a month so we can all stay connected with one another. The hour will begin with a musical warm-up followed by break out room discussions. This will be followed by a larger group discussion of what was shared in the break out rooms, ending with a feedback session from the group. This will be your time to share any feedback you may have for us as a lab or what you would like to see from the music hour in the future!

Looking forward to seeing everyone tomorrow!

Julianne & Chrysa