

Granular Gong

for 8-Track Tape

Performance Score

*Genre: Electroacoustic Music
(Acousmatic)*

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Indications for the performance:

This acousmatic piece, composed in 2000, is available on the following different formats (all octophonic):

- ADAT – 48 kHz Sampling Rate
- DTRS – 44.1 kHz Sampling Rate
- 8 separate AIFF files, which can be uploaded to any current computer Audio Sequencer (Pro Tools, Nuendo, etc) for performance on a PC or Apple based computer.

This performance score is a graphic representation of the final quadraphonic mix, which main purpose is mainly to help the performer on the Mixing Desk during the diffusion of the piece in a concert Hall.

The piece explores the following subjects:

On one side the way of making metal-like sounds with synthesis procedures (Chowning FM physical modelling) and then varying and combining them with another synthesis procedures, mostly Granular Synthesis (therefore giving the name to the piece) but also other like Phase Vocoding (involving time stretching and pitch shifting), Spectral mutations and Convolution (multiplication of 2 different spectra).

On the other side, I wanted to experiment with large crescendo forms, which with their inner tension resolve in other sounds. Very loud and very soft moments are the essential part of the very structure of "Granular Gong".

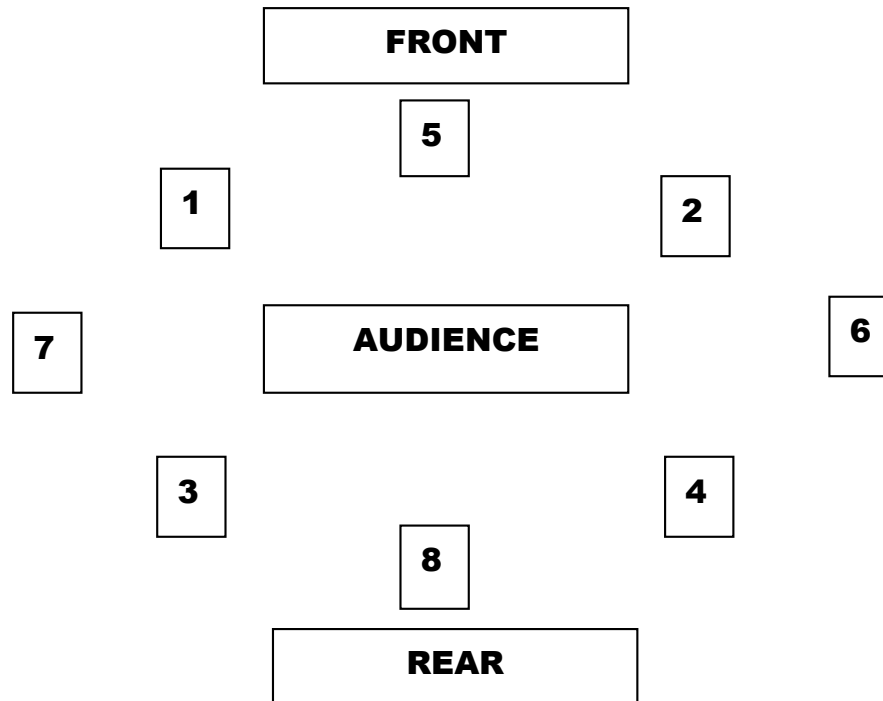
As a third subject to explore was the movement and rotation of this sounds in a space or room. That is the reason why the original is composed for an 8-Track diffusion, which is the best performance possibility.

Software used for the composition and production of the piece:

Csound (mainly for the physical modelling of the Gong Sounds), Soundhack, Audiosculpt.

The Final Mix 8 track mix was done on ProTools.

The channel distribution for concert purposes follows the “American” octophonic surround way, as follows:



The performer on the Mixing desk should not try to diffuse the piece, as all octophonic movements are already pre-composed and saved on the tape. A general indication would be to consider all 8 Output Busses at 0dB level basis (Unity), but as the overall dynamics can vary substantially from one system and concert hall to another, the final decision of a common overall level for all 8 channels remains on the performer.

The octophonic version is the only version which brings the whole compositional ideas together, as the space is indeed a primordial parameter and therefore should be given priority. However, if an octophonic system is not in place, a quadraphonic reduction as follows:

Channel 1 & 5 together,
Channel 2 & 6 together,
Channel 3 & 7 together,
Channel 4 & 8 together.

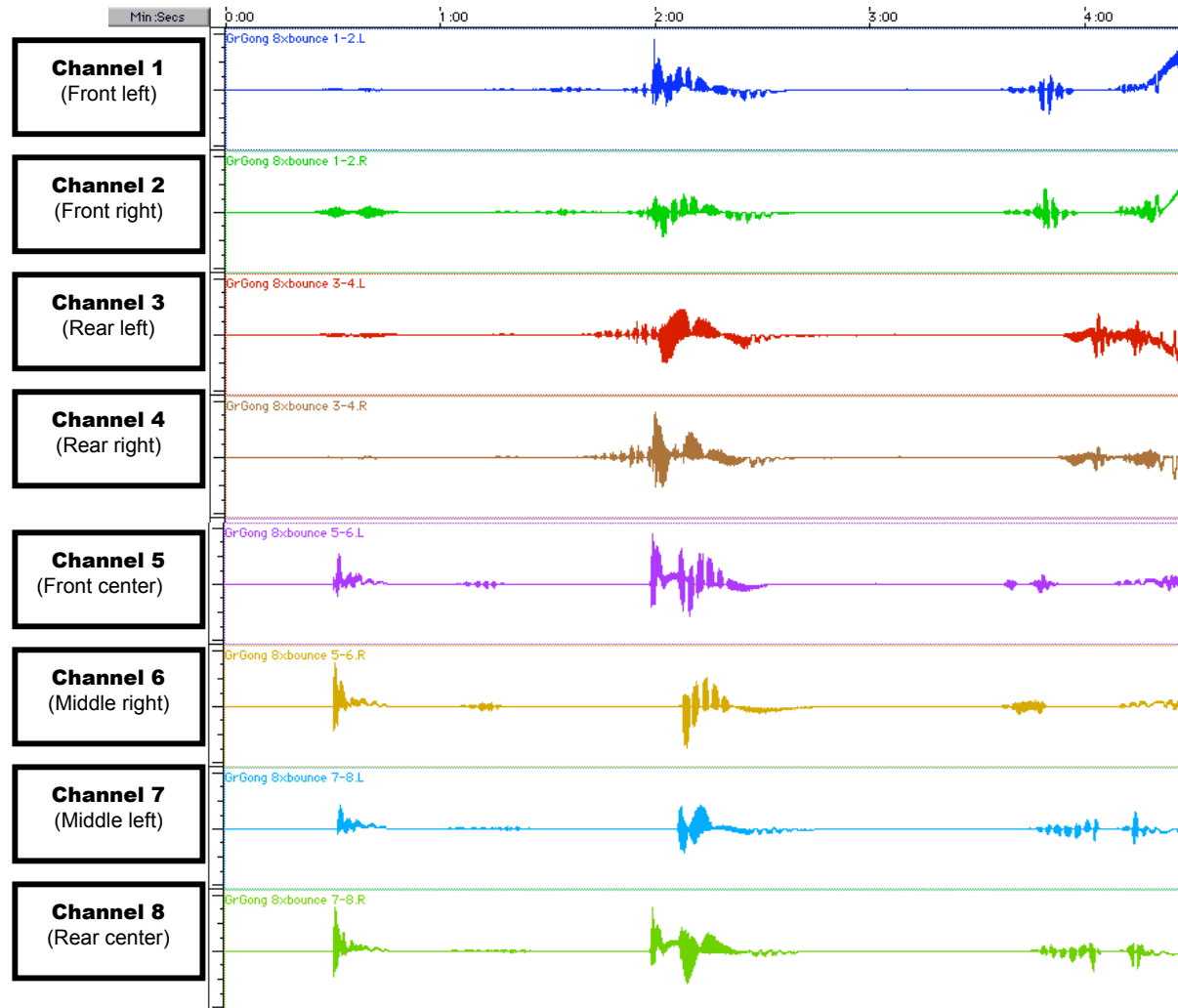
should replace it.

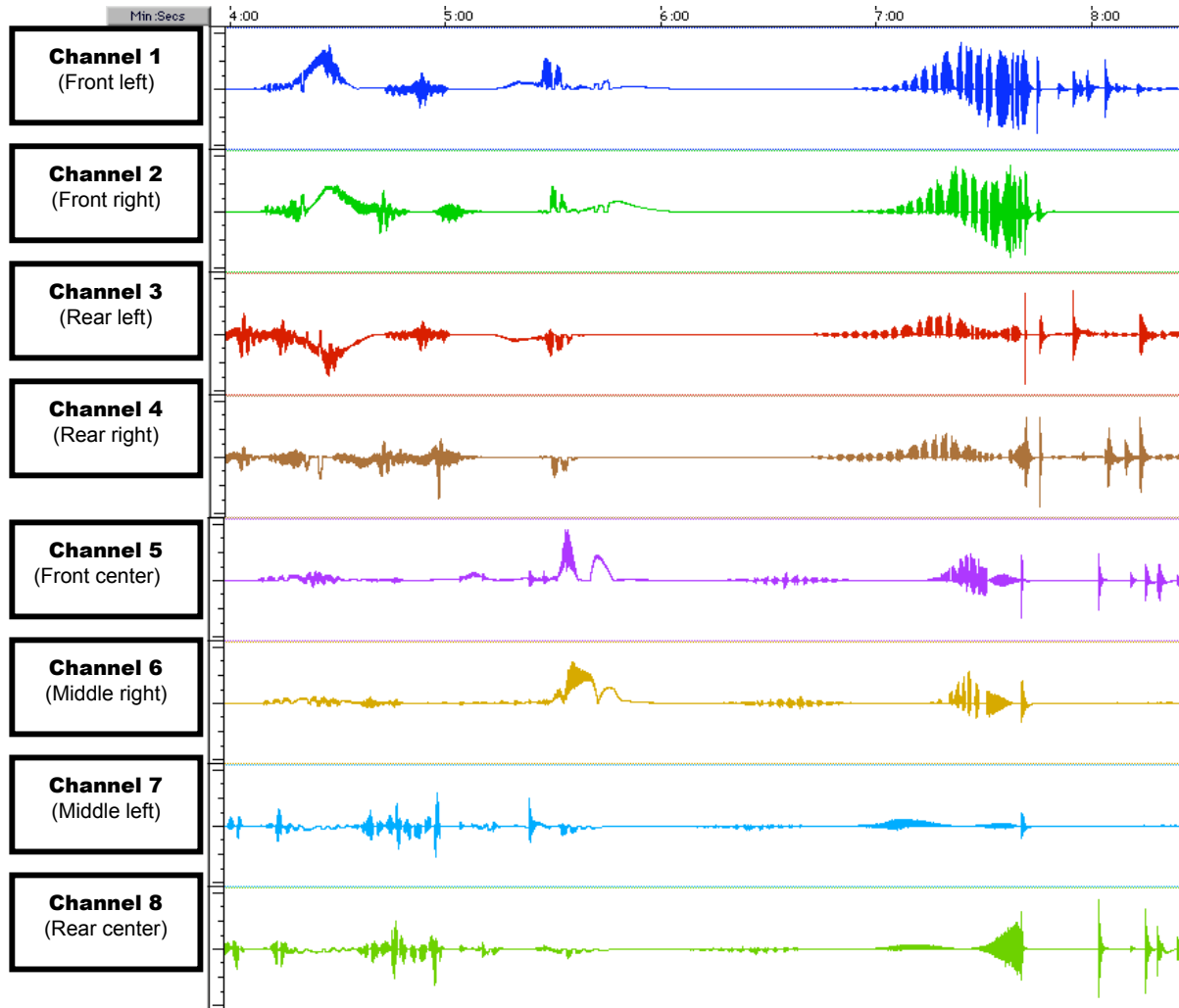
Commercially available on CD since April 2006, there is a stereo version of the piece as well, but this one only qualifies for Radio or home reproduction.

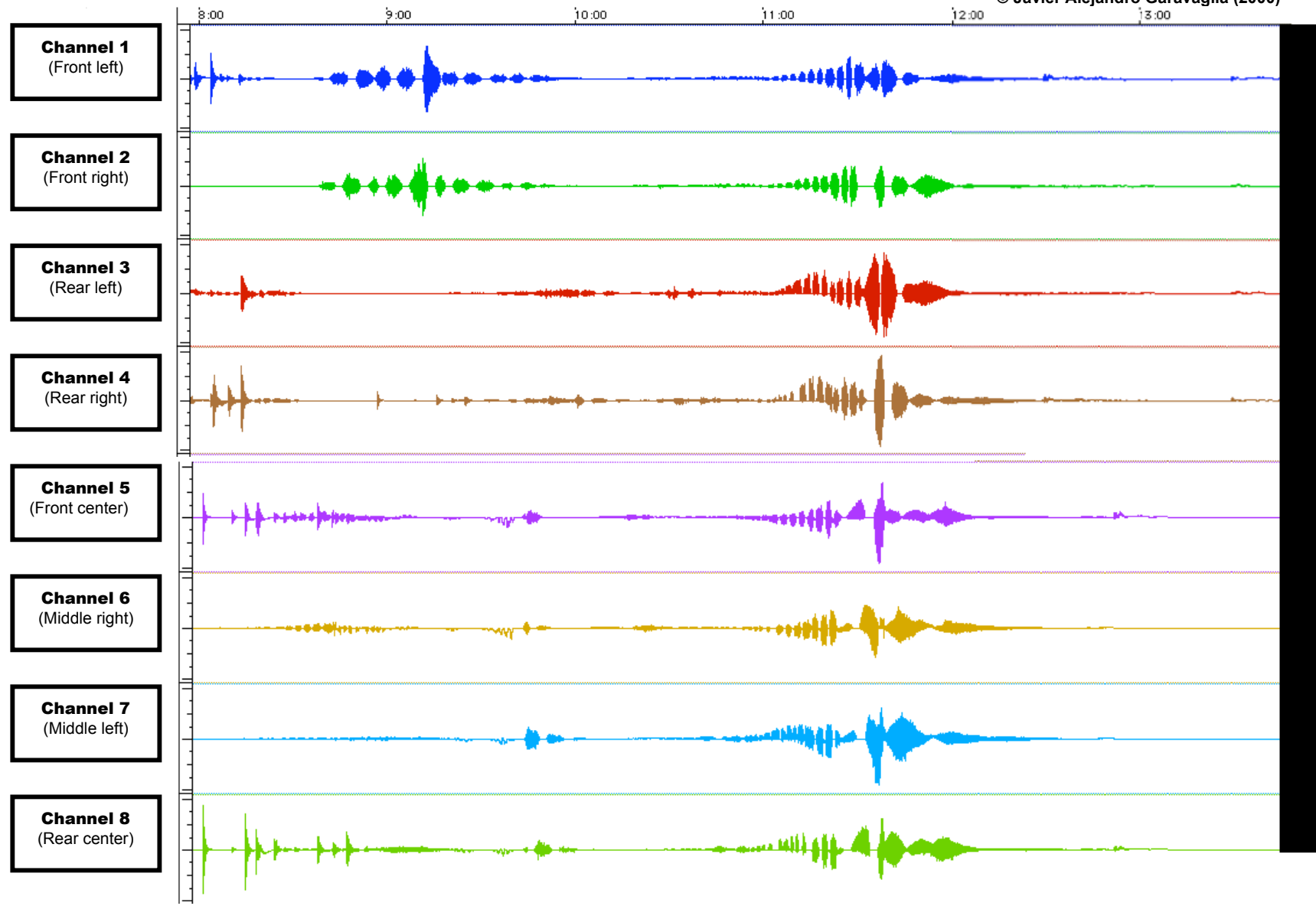
Duration: 13:50

Granular Gong

Javier Alejandro Garavaglia (2000)







End at 13:50:00