



CALL FOR PAPERS
INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

MUSIC AND THE IMAGINARY OF THE NORTH AND THE COLD

Organized by the International Laboratory for the Comparative
Multidisciplinary Study of Representations of the North, at the Université du
Québec à Montréal

Thursday, 19th, and Friday, 20th January 2012
Proposals to be sent **before September 25th, 2011**

North, the winter, and the Arctic have long interested artists and inspired many choreographic, cinematographic, literary, musical, visual, poetic, and dramatic works in which sound or music play a role. Whether sound and music punctuate a dramatic moment, create atmosphere, suggest an emotion, or are the main centres of interest, works in which they contribute to constructing an image of the North remain little known. How do the North and the cold confront the listener? In works such as Debussy's *Des pas sur la neige*, R. Murray Schafer's *Winter Diary*, Glenn Gould's *The Idea of North*, Carl Nielsen's *A Fantasy Journey to the Faroe Islands* is it possible to identify such a thing as Nordic music? Through which musical signifiers can one (re)construct the North, winter, and the Arctic? What are the systems of cultural and aesthetic representation of the North in popular song, opera, classical music, dance music, electroacoustic music, contemporary and new music, film music, novels, poetry, theatre, sound installations or, quite simply, in sound itself? These are the kinds of questions that will be the focus of this conference, which participants might approach in the following ways (a non-restrictive list):

MUSIC: Imitation, narratives, imaginary of the North, winter, and the Arctic; borrowings from traditional Inuit culture: the memory of patrimony and of all forms of life in the Arctic; understanding snow as a damper to city sounds; hearing the North as a paean to silence; movements, rhythms and timbres of the Arctic, from Kaija Saariaho's *Lichtbogen* to Jan Jarvlepp's *Aurora Borealis*; love in the winter or reflections on references to winter in love songs, from Julien Clerc to Tim

Brady. **ACOUSTICS:** Characterizations of hot and cold in the field of acoustic; sonic colours, textures, and timbres associated with cold in music; instrumentation and orchestration in musical works that evoke the North or winter. **FILM, DANCE, LITERATURE AND THEATRE:** References to music in discourse related to cold, winter, and ice; ambience or rhythm in documentaries, theatrical and dance productions. **SOUNDSCAPE:** Listening to space; the trace of an artefact: sonic painting of Nordic landscapes or confirmation of identity. **VISUAL ARTS :** Resonances in installation and art produced *in situ*.

Papers will be 20 minutes long, followed by a question period of 10 minutes. This call is directed to university researchers and practicing professionals – composers, performers, musicologists, artists, writers, film-makers, actors, geographers, historians, and literary scholars – as well as to graduate students. Proposals must include: title; abstract of no more than 300 words; selected bibliography; contact information (family name, first name, university or professional affiliation, postal address, and electronic address); short biography of no more than 150 words. The proposals (in either English or French) should be sent by email as a Word attachment **before 25 September 2011** to imaginairedunord@uqam.ca. Participants are responsible for their own travel and lodging costs. Selection of the program will be made by mid-October 2011. Publication of articles emerging from the conference is anticipated in the collection « Imaginaire Nord | Droit au pôle » published by Presses de l'Université du Québec.

A concert will be presented on Thursday 19 January at 8:00 p.m. in collaboration with the Canadian Music Centre of Québec.

This conference is organized by Claudine Caron (Université du Québec à Montréal), Daniel Chartier (Université du Québec à Montréal) and Caroline Traube (Université de Montréal).

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Laboratoire international d'étude multidisciplinaire
comparée des représentations du Nord