



67P, Singing Comet

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I would like to propose to present a short science-art-music collaboration film called “67P, Singing Comet” (5:27 min). If time of the session will allow, prior to the film I would like to make a slide show introduction to this project, highlighting the inspiration – the mission Rosetta by the European Space Agency (ESA) – and the artistic collaboration that took place in creating this piece.

Inspired by the ESA Rosetta mission to the comet 67P, Ekaterina Smirnova (artist and project director, New York), Lee Mottram (clarinetist, Wales), Takuto Fukuda (composer, Japan) and Brian Hekker (video editor, New York) collaborated to create a unique atmospheric piece.

Water and the origins of life throughout the Universe (specifically the Earth) is an element of the mission and the focus of Ekaterina’s artistic vision. Ekaterina literally and figuratively paints a sensory assemblage using a combination of synthetic and natural elements to shape this artistic creation. To paint her watercolor works she is using a replica of the water found on the comet and implementing her own heartbeat into the music to create a recognizable inward sound of life.

The Electro-Acoustic composition by Takuto Fukuda features an electronically manipulated performance by clarinetist Lee Mottram. The piece ceremoniously begins with reverberant bursts of low-register atonal bells transporting the listener to their ethereal inner origins of body and mind. The imagination takes the experience to an unknown destination as it gains speed gliding through the visual and audible textures of space and time.

The comet’s water similarly reacts with an ebb and flow thawing ice to potentially give life a chance as it is thrust along an orbit around the Sun. Near then far from the heat the comet forms frozen particles from vapors as it reaches it’s furthest stretches creating an aerodynamic tail of icicles that slowly dissipate in a cycle that repeats itself until the comet’s ultimate collision with an obstacle violating it’s path. A type of galactic intersection that may be have been the origin of life here on Earth.

To view the video, please visit: <http://www.ekaterina-smirnova.com/67p-music/>