

Snow Day

People Like Us & Ergo Phizmiz examine their obsessions with the classical piece Troika (Sleigh Ride), Queen, Rod McKuen and songs about the weather, plus Vicki tries to mix Mrs Miller with B.J.Thomas and wonders why it didn't turn out too well.

This episode, as well as being about snow, is about looking at the progression of one idea, and how that can branch out into a wider scope of many ideas. An exciting possibility of modern-day sound-collage is how simple it becomes to really explore endless permutations of a single thought, or melody, or progression. A single sample, melody, or idea can be experimentally overlayed with any sound or group of sounds, making the process of composition full of surprises, and again bringing in the element of "collaboration" with the computer, introducing combinations, rhythms, harmonies and textures that come from outside the conscious mind of the composer.

A particularly fun and interesting area of this is the taking of two sound elements, overlaying them on a timeline, then randomly chopping loops out of that without regard for "beats of the bar", "time signature" etc. The result is often harmonic and rhythmic combinations that are surprising and unpredictable, then sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't!

This kind of method can then lead to an entirely new idea, which becomes another composition. Sample music is great for the capacity to just grow and grow, like a tree with many branches. Snow Day takes one idea as the base of the tree, then grows in many diverse directions.

