

Music and Technology

Introduction

(notes written in A5 dark green flower book)

When Noise becomes Music

Russolo and the “noise tuner”

1920s

Object trouvé: the idea that art can be made by simply found objects

At the start of the 19th century, artists discovered the sensuality of colour and matter. The 1920s-1940s were characterised by WWI and WWII; so this movement allowed people to give dignity to everyday life and the common people during a time of hardship. The main message being: art is for everyone.

Luigi Russolo (1885-1947) was a futuristic artist who would lay the foundations for the role of noise in music for the years to come.

[The futuristic movement was started by the poet Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, and focused on the ideas of dynamism, speed and technology.]

Russolo provided an outside perspective for the world of music as a painter, he could see the potential of industrial technology in music that most at the time did not. Around 1913, Russolo created the *intonarumori*: an acoustic device that could reproduce and tune different noises. From here, he created different varieties of intonarumoris and began to compose pieces that used solely this instrument.

In 1916, he published the work *L'arte dei rumori*. In which he argues that the human ear will become accustomed to the speed and volume of the urban industrial world, therefore we should approach music differently. Saying that electronic instruments could be a

“substitute for the limited variety of timbres that the orchestra possesses today, the infinite variety of timbres in noises, [being] reproduced with the appropriate mechanisms”

Example work:

Risveglio di una città (Wake-up of the city)

It caused a shockwave when first heard by audiences, but his work has also been inspirational to many mainstream composers, such as Stravinsky.

After this original breakthrough by Russolo, noise managed to gain a place in the musical world - similarly to *object trouvé* in the artistic industry. His legacy remained particularly prevalent in Paris, inspiring: