

It's NOISE - not music. No thanks

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Music can be created by a lot of things... maybe you could be a little more open minded?

[Wednesday at 4:36pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

White noise is white noise - boring. I am open-minded, but I know crap when it's described to me.

[Wednesday at 5:04pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

For good or bad, noise has played a significant role in 20th century music.

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I think part of the reason for music using noise is to provoke reactions such as this.

[Wednesday at 5:07pm](#) · [Like](#) · [4](#)

They're NOT "composers", since noise alone is not music.

[Wednesday at 5:07pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Yes indeed, noise (in its technical AND general sense) is a part of music. But music is more than that. Something which is ONLY white noise is just noise, not music.

[Wednesday at 5:13pm](#) · [Like](#)

Music may be more than white noise, but to my (admittedly dissonant) ear that doesn't mean a composition can't be made using white noise. Despite the, er, emotional responses here, I think "noise music" is a challenge saying - go on, I dare you to call me music.

[Wednesday at 5:13pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Agreed. I've used it myself. But the host has gone to some pains to NOT describe what is going to be broadcast as "music". John Cage has a lot to answer for...

[Wednesday at 5:15pm](#) · [Like](#)

Oh you people! Always using terms like "white noise" when you mean something you don't like hearing or don't understand. http://www.sfu.ca/sonic-studio/handbook/White_Noise.html

[Wednesday at 5:20pm](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

Given that there are flute, percussion, electric guitar and piano listed, and it's hard to produce pure white noise on any of those instruments, it's unlikely to be ONLY white noise. But don't let that get in the way of your views on what music is.

[Wednesday at 5:26pm](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

my point is that the organized sound events you hear on the show are only white noise if your radio isn't tuning properly. Maybe you should consider an upgrade?

[Wednesday at 5:26pm](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · [3](#)

But it's still ALL noise.

[Wednesday at 5:27pm](#) · [Like](#)

Is African American Noise (the politically correct way of saying Black Noise) an area of ethnomusicological interest?

[Wednesday at 5:28pm](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

If you could be bothered to read the blurb ... you'll see it described as "white noise". That is not my interpretation. My hearing circuits are in fine working order, but clearly your aesthetic ones are not. White noise is not "music", and never will be.

[Wednesday at 5:37pm](#) · [Like](#)

Well, I believe that broadcasting NOISE on taxpayer-funded radio is an abuse of the public.

[Wednesday at 5:38pm](#) · [Like](#)

Maybe we should organise a petition to ban NOISE from its airwaves...

[Wednesday at 5:49pm](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Allow me to quote to avoid misrepresentation: "Music by Peter Ablinger, Austin Buckett and Cat Hope" White noise is definitely a component of Ablinger's work and something that he is very interested in interacting musically with. The other two composers both have an interest in noise (not necessarily 'white') both as musical material and as an idea. All three understand these interactions as a form of music-making and will be using a variety of conventional instrumental techniques as part of this musical interaction. The nature of this focus is likely to minimise the kinds of musical gestures that are best represented by traditional classical notation. Is it music? Listen and decide for yourself.

[Wednesday at 5:56pm](#) · [Like](#) · [5](#)

this thread wins an internet.

[Wednesday at 5:57pm](#) · [Like](#) · [5](#)

Hi guys! Great to get your, um, reactions - but please keep any angry missives to a dull roar. We do however welcome your polite, respectful reflections on music - and noise - in general. 'Everything Always' promises a set of intriguing acoustic and electronic works that query the idea of noise, white or otherwise. Is it art? Is it dart? Probably both.

[Wednesday at 5:59pm](#) · [Like](#) · [8](#)

Selective quotation ... Here's what follows (from the beginning of the thread)"

"Rauschen (White noise) is the totality of sounds - 'everything always' in its acoustic representation. Comparable to white light that contains all colours, white noise contains all frequencies, and - poetically speaking - all music."

Peter Ablinger

=====

White noise on the radio? You are not between stations. Join us on air or in studio

(see below) at 8pm on Saturday 15th December for a special New Music Up Late event focusing on white noise.

White noise around the world is used for sleep aid, child pacification, enhanced privacy, blocking distractions and increased focus (see www.simplynoise.com) but is also used by certain contemporary composers and musicians to serve different purposes."

So it IS touted as NOISE.

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Another observation - though noise has always been part of human experience, the past 100 years has seen it become more pervasive - from the many forms of traffic to air-con, to the sounds of all the devices we use, many of them either noise or the form of cute 'musical' sounds that are much more annoying. Whereas once composers responded to an environment full of birdsong, running water, farm animals, horses' hooves, the odd clash of arms and blasts of war and hunting horns and rums etc. now composers are faced with the challenge of responding to the pervasiveness of noise and processing this and interpreting it in aesthetic (poetic?) terms. A challenge for our times...

[Wednesday at 6:04pm](#) · [Like](#) · [4](#)

Noise is superior to music. Always has been, always will be. Musicians, composers, critics, others of that ilk are just insecure little whingers who know they'll never be able to compete with Noise, so rely on excuses and complaints to make themselves feel better. But failing. Lärm ueber alles!

[Wednesday at 6:09pm](#) · [Like](#) · [3](#)

Yes ... valid point. But this is described as ONLY noise. And noise alone is not art. An important question: should people merely add to the noise? I think not. Art - MUSIC - is an antidote to it.

[Wednesday at 6:09pm](#) · [Like](#)

it is not described as 'only noise'. The comments about white noise are included in the information as part of the context within which these people work. It is described up front as 'music'.

[Wednesday at 6:11pm](#) · [Like](#)

A polemic/manifesto for noise music - http://exp-melb.blogspot.com.au/2011/05/international-noise-conference_30.html

[Wednesday at 6:50pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Do you actually *know* any of Ablinger's music? I can't imagine you'd like it, but his exploration of the intersections and crossovers between sound/noise/music are a lot more nuanced than you seem to be imagining. Beyond that, you seem to be going all-caps a lot on words like "VALID", which is totally a shame, because your comments seem to me to be hilariously anachronistic, thoroughly ignorant of a large amount of compositional and research-based activity over the last forty years, and completely unwilling to engage with any of the broader implications of the ways we engage with music.

[Wednesday at 6:54pm](#) · [Like](#) · [4](#)

The list of full-caps words in these comments makes for interesting poetry, I think:

NOISE
NOT
AND
ONLY
OH SNAP
NOT
ONLY
ALL
LOL
FACT
OK
RIGHT
NOISE
VALID
NOISE
ABC
NOISE
NMUL
IS
NOISE
ONCE
ONLY

NOISE
VALID

[Wednesday at 10:39pm](#) · [Unlike](#) · [11](#)

I don't know this group so can't comment, but, you're right 'noise is not music'.

[Wednesday at 10:49pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

You obviously only hang around with lame fringe 'musicians'.

[Thursday at 3:05pm](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#)

People in urban environments are bombarded every day with "noise pollution" - something they seek to avoid as much as possible. Noise - I'm using the word in the strictly technical (not aesthetic) sense - is widely regarded as undesirable, and is indeed damaging to one's aural faculty, psychology and spirit. Given the descriptions of so-called 'noise art' here (http://exp-melb.blogspot.com.au/2011/05/international-noise-conference_30.html.e.g. continuous noise), isn't such an event merely adding to the problem? Why would anybody wish to expose themselves to *more* noise than they're already subjected to? I'm not opposed to noise _per se_ when it appears in the context of music, surrounded by non-noise or categorially ambiguous sonics and silence; but here, the totality of the work presented *IS* noise, according to the creators themselves. I have heard a fair bit of 'noise art' over the years, and it strikes me as being devoid of any meaningful artistic aesthetic - except perhaps unremitting ugliness. If it is touted as art ('music'), then where is the muse? Where is its soul? What is its metanarrative? What does it *mean*? Or is it just a massive pseudo-intellectual wank by people who like to tinker with modern sound-technology but are otherwise musical-theoretically illiterate, often cannot play (let alone compose for) any traditional instrument, and know little of the great history of Western art-music?

[Thursday at 3:07pm](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#)

hey, thanks for the lols, you're great

[Thursday at 3:02pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Music is superior to noise. Always has been, always will be. Noise 'artists', 'sound artists', devotees, and others of that ilk are just insecure little whingers who know

they'll never be able to compete with Music, so rely on excuses and complaints to make themselves feel better. But failing.

[Thursday at 4:37pm](#) · [Like](#)

90% of this post is the usual internet hyperbole and insults, but the other 10% I find interesting, especially about what is noise and why would people want to listen to it. And I'm talking about noise music, not 'just noise' - the difference being noise music is organised sound; no matter how chaotic it seems, a performer/composer/artist is organising it. We are not talking about white noise generators here Firstly, it seems to me self-evident that noise music is a burgeoning alternative music style/scene that is thriving all around the world, particularly in non-Western countries. So it is hard to argue that no one could like it - many do. As to why they like it, I think there are a number of reasons - it is a very cathartic emotional art form, it is an intense listening experience, it uses textures in sound unavailable to traditional instruments. I have suggested that noise music is the folk music of the 21st century - anyone can do it, it is outside traditional (and controlled) music, and has an immediacy that appeals to many.

[Thursday at 6:11pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

But most of all, noise is relevant for the very reason questioned above why anyone would want to listen to it - it is everywhere. It is the sound of modernity, as the Futurists understood a century ago. It poses the question whether orchestral/chamber music is relevant anymore? Why are we using instruments from centuries ago when electronics and computers allow us to harness any sound/noise we want? You don't even need a computer to play noise music, you just need some crappy guitar pedals. just need a microphone and an amp! The distortion pedal is what the acoustic guitar was to the folk music movement.

[Thursday at 6:15pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

So that's why I am glad the show has devoted a programme to the idea of noise. Just one programme! Surely this phenomenon of contemporary music deserves some attention.

[Thursday at 6:17pm](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

Finally, on a personal note, some (not all) of the most memorable performances I've attended were noise concerts. @Merzbow was beyond words (like noise). Screwtape diving into a wheelie bin full of empties!

[Thursday at 6:22pm](#) · [Like](#)

"And I'm talking about noise music, not 'just noise' - the difference being noise music is organised sound; no matter how chaotic it seems, a performer/composer/artist is organising it."

OK - but not even that qualifies it as music.

"But most of all, noise is relevant for the very reason questioned above why anyone would want to listen to it - it is everywhere."

Noise IS everywhere (in the urban environment). Surely that is an excellent reason to avoid any more of it. Noise is sonic pollution.

"It is the sound of modernity, as the Futurists understood a century ago."

Correction: it is A sound of modernity - one that is to be used judiciously, since noise is actually harmful.

"You don't even need a computer to play noise music, you just need some crappy guitar pedals."

Exactly the sound I find literally nauseating.

[9 hours ago](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#)

***This thread is a selection of facebook comments posted on December 5th and 6th in reaction to the event *Everything Always* for New Music Up Late on ABC Classic FM (Dec 15, 2012). The broadcast focused on the 'rauschen' or noise related works of Peter Ablinger and new Australian pieces and was curated by Austin Buckett. More details can be found here: www.austinbuckett.com**

