On *Songbird's Hour Bisected*

In 2011 while conducting experiments with sine tones by programming sound wave generation in Pascal code at the computer, one of my ventures yielded a mono wave, which instead of being rendered within – and lasting in playback – a few seconds, took to my surprise a whole hour to compute, and it lasted practically as much when played back (actually 62 minutes). The qualities of this accidental by-product fascinated me and I wholeheartedly welcomed it. Starting with a hectic songbird-like sinusoidal twittering, it very slowly transitions over its whole hour to final dissipation and decay. I entitled it *Songbird's Hour*. Sometimes silences of several minutes intersperse themselves as a part of the process, the longest of these lasting as much as over 16 minutes.

As one who was swayed by the work of John Cage for a long time, and not only conducted a chamber orchestra in 1973 in an open-air performance of his 4'33" but also curated other performances of this work, I had *Songbird's Hour* performed in various open-air spaces, where sounds of the environment were welcomed into the listeners' auditory perception. In music, silence is an open window.

Later I used a folding technique to engender multichannel versions of *Songbird's Hour*, proportionally shortened. For instance the 7'45"-long *Songbird's Hour Octasected* (2013), features the mono sound wave cut into eight equally long sections, which are then layered simultaneously in eight channels and individually faded in and out so as to reach their maxima at different equidistant times. The stereo version *Songbird's Hour Bisected* (2017) is much simpler: the first half of *Songbird's Hour* enters in the left channel at full volume and is faded out over its whole 31 minutes, while the second half is faded in on the right channel in parallel over the same length of time.

The illustration below shows (in violet blue) the fading out of the left channel and the fading in (in dark grey) of the right channel. Note for instance the silence from 10'41" to 15'03".