

# THE SENSE OF SOUND (LE SENS DU SON) - OCTOBER 5-8

Conference



Co-organized by **Sarah Kay**, NYU, and **François Noudelmann**, Université Paris VIII

This conference brings together scholars of French literature, music, and history, alongside sound artists from France and the Francophone world, to explore the place of sound in sensation/making sense. Talks and roundtables are organized around a series of performances which include a concert featuring

compositions of Michaël Levinas, a performance at the Park Avenue Armory of Boulez's *Répons* by IRCAM's Ensemble Intercontemporain, and the innovative production by Roland Auzet of Bertrand-Marie Koltes's play *In the Solitude of the Cotton Fields*. Levinas; the director of l'IRCAM, Frank Madlener; and Auzet will participate in discussions around their work.

## Thursday, October 5

### Location: La Maison Française

2:00 p.m. Welcome and opening remarks

2:15 - 4:15 p.m. Opening keynotes

*Singing with the Stars*, **Sarah Kay**, NYU

*The Acousmatic Turn*, **François Noudelmann**,  
Université Paris VIII

4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Roundtable 1: Political and Social  
Soundscapes

*Sounds in the Street: Vendors' Cries and the Ringing  
of Church Bells*, **Evelyn (Timmie) Birge Vitz**, NYU

*Some Reflections from the Interwar Years*, **Annegret  
Fauser**, UNC Chapel Hill

*Sound in the City of Light: Radio Broadcasting and  
the Contested Soundscape of Interwar Paris*, **Rebecca  
P. Scales**, Rochester Institute of Technology

*Sounding Out Urban Mobility in Nineteenth-Century  
Paris*, **Aimée Boutin**, Florida State University

Moderator: **Evan Spritzer**

7:30 p.m. Performance

Location: **Skirball Center, NYU**

Performance (immersive) on the Grand Staircase,  
Kimmel Center

Bernard-Marie Koltès, *In the Solitude of the Cotton*

*Fields*, trans. Judith Miller, dir. Roland Auzet

**Tickets (free of charge) must be obtained in advance from the Skirball Center. To reserve tickets, visit** [tickets.nyu.edu/single/SelectSeating.aspx?p=6676](https://tickets.nyu.edu/single/SelectSeating.aspx?p=6676)

For a full description of the play,

visit [nyuskirball.org/events/cotton-fields](https://nyuskirball.org/events/cotton-fields)

Read an interview with Auzet at [frenchculture.org](https://frenchculture.org).

## **Friday, October 6**

**Location: NYU Cantor Film Center, 36 East 8th Street**

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Roundtable 2: Human and Non-human Soundscapes

*Bird Talk in Medieval France and Occitania*, **Eliza Zingesser**, Columbia University

*Plant Sound*, **Phillip Usher**, NYU

*Schwitters' Urlauten Sonata*, **Eugène Nicole**, NYU

*Words in the Air, Voices in the Trees*, **Rachel Mundy**, Rutgers University, Newark

Moderator: **Sarah Kay**, NYU

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Roundtable 3: Staging Sound and Silence

*Absolutism and the Silent Art of French Opera*, **Benoît Bolduc**, NYU

Conversation on *Staging Sound and Silence* with **Roland Auzet**, Theater Director and **Judith G. Miller**, NYU

Moderator: **Judith G. Miller**, NYU

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

*Boulez's 'Reorientations': The Collège de France Lectures (1976-1995)*, **Jonathan Goldman**, Université de Montréal

8:00 p.m. Concert

**Location: Park Avenue Armory**

Participants are encouraged to attend

Boulez, *Répons*, performed by the Ensemble

Intercontemporain

**To purchase tickets:**

armoryonpark.org/programs\_events/detail/repons

**Saturday, October 7**

**Location: NYU Steinhardt - Kimball Hall Lounge, 246**

**Greene Street, 1st Floor**

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

*Showing, Not Telling: Music as Spatial Art*, **Frank**

**Madlener**, Director, IRCAM

*Series, Structure, Concept: Boulez's Penser la*

*musique aujourd'hui*, **Nick Nesbitt**, Princeton

University

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

*The Art of Listening*, **Peter Szendy**, Brown University

3:00 - 4:50 p.m. Roundtable 4: Spectral and Post-spectral French Music: The Music of Michaël Levinas

*Sound and its Revelations: Sound become Writing*

*and Writing become Sound*, **Michaël Levinas**,

Composer

Discussion of Michaël Levinas's music with **Marilyn**

**Nonken**, NYU, and **Irina Kataeva-Aimard**

Moderated by **François Noudelmann**, Université Paris

VIII

5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Concert

**Location: NYU Steinhardt - Education Building, 35**

**West 4th Street, 3rd Floor, Recital Room 303**

*Messiaen and Levinas*

Performed by **Marilyn Nonken**, NYU; **Irina Kataeva-Aimard**; and **Roula Safar**

**Sunday, October 8**

2:15 p.m.

Pre-show conversation before the final performance of *In the Solitude of the Cotton Fields*, with director **Roland Auzet**, translator and NYU Professor **Judith Graves Miller**, and Visiting Professor of French **François Noudelmann**.

**Location: Kimmel Center, NYU, 60 Washington Square South.** Top of the Kimmel Center's Grand Staircase, in the second floor balcony lounge. Please arrive early to make sure you have time to pick up your headset before the talk.

3:00 p.m. Performance

**Location: Skirball Center, NYU**

Performance (immersive) on the Grand Staircase, Kimmel Center

Bernard-Marie Koltès, *In the Solitude of the Cotton Fields*, trans. Judith Miller, dir. Roland Auzet

**Tickets (free of charge) must be obtained in advance from the Skirball Center. To reserve tickets,**

**visit** [tickets.nyu.edu/single/SelectSeating.aspx?p=6680](https://tickets.nyu.edu/single/SelectSeating.aspx?p=6680)

For a full description of the play, visit [nyuskirball.org/events/cotton-fields](https://nyuskirball.org/events/cotton-fields)

Event co-sponsored by NYU Steinhardt; the Skirball Center NYU; the Department of French Literature, Thought and Culture, NYU; and supported by the generosity of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy. The performances of *In the Solitude of the*

*Cotton Fields* are made possible thanks to the support of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy; FACE Foundation; La Muse en Circuit; Compagnie Acte-Opus; and the Center for French Civilization and Culture, NYU.

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**Faculty & Staff Resources**

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