

Panoramic Echoes
A Sound Sculpture Proposed
for Madison Square Park

by
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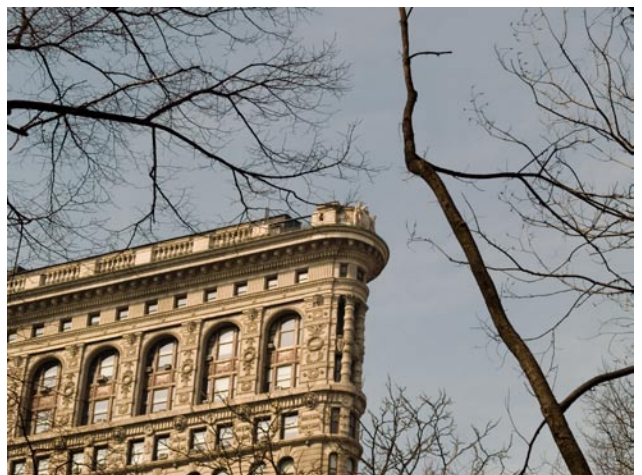


Panoramic Echoes will use sound to create a perception of architectural scale that correlates to the visual topography of high buildings surrounding Madison Square Park. It will be a spatial composition with palpable layers of environmental sounds that will move, float, and echo above the park's predominant sonic background of traffic noise. It will quietly emerge from a rooftop and quickly or slowly make a panning journey above the park, and then fade to silence. It will emerge and fade out again and again from different rooftops, for changing durations, and always returning to the natural silence of the park, which is traffic noise. It will penetrate the Park's noise envelope with environmental sounds that will have a magical presence by virtue of their kinesthetic relationship to being perceived at ground level coming from above.

A unique loudspeaker technology will be utilized to realize this idea, Meyer Sound's parabolic speaker, the SB-1, or Sound Beam. These will be placed on the rooftops and high vantage of four to six building buildings surrounding the Park aimed into the Park. There will be one central control station at one building site that will send wireless signals to that remaining rooftops that will conduct this sound sculpture.



Parabolic loudspeakers would be placed high up on the rooftops of some of these buildings, as well as the balcony on the Met Life Tower.





The bells of the Met Life Tower clock were an acoustic landmark of New York that has fallen silent. Clock bells such as this are important aspects of the soundscapes of many European cities. In fact, I had recently created a sound sculpture with the most clock tower in the world, Big Ben with a work called "Speeds of Time". It is my desire with this project to have these bells reactivated so that they sound every quarter hour, at least during business hours. If it is possible to do this, the parabolic speakers on the surrounding rooftops will enter into a musical dialogue with the Met Life Bells. Microphones near the bells would relays live sound to the loudspeakers that would answer that clock strokes with musical echoes that cascade around Madison Square Park. This musical interaction between the loudspeakers and the bells would mix with the natural sounds that are also sounding into the Madison Square Park.

