



Leading Robotic Musical Instrument Creator Eric Singer Creates Robotic Orchestra for Paris' Lido Night Club

Dozens of SingerBots Instruments Debut in New Cabaret Show

(Pittsburgh, PA – May 27, 2015) Eric Singer, the world's foremost creator of robotic musical instruments, has just finished his largest work to date, a robotic orchestra, or "orchestrion," for the world-famous Lido night club in Paris. The Lido Orchestrion, a collection of dozens of robotic musical instruments, opens the Lido's new cabaret show each night, with an hour of music composed and arranged for the orchestrion.

Produced by his Pittsburgh-based company [SingerBots](#), Singer's creations are real musical instruments with robotic mechanisms that physically play each instrument. Collectively, they form an **orchestrion**, the historic term for a set of automated musical instruments. Mechanical orchestrions date back to the 1800s, and Singer continues this tradition by creating robotic orchestrions.

Singer was commissioned by the Franco Dragone company to create the Lido Orchestrion for the new show being producing for the Lido. His orchestrion includes four xylophones, dozens of drums, cymbals and exotic percussion, and Singer's flagship instrument, the GuitarBot, a special slide-guitar robot unlike any guitar in the world.

"Creating this work was a serious artistic and technical challenge," says Singer. "When I saw and heard the finished work at the Lido, built into Dragone's beautiful set, I was personally astounded. I am incredibly proud of this achievement."

Comprised of over 250 mechanisms, the orchestrion is designed to run for over 10 years. Singer and his specially assembled fabrication team created the work in record time, five months, and it made its debut in April 2015.

How the Orchestrion Works

Singer's orchestrions play original compositions from scores residing in a computer. They can also play music generated by the computer itself, so-called "algorithmic compositions," using custom software. Over the next decade, Lido's composers will create 100 cabaret-style compositions for the orchestrion.

The robots can play any kind of music composed for them. Singer's system makes it plug-and-play for any musician who wishes to write music for his instruments, much like composing for synthesizers, but played back live on real instruments.

The Roots of SingerBots

SingerBots grew from Singer's work creating robotic musical instruments. He began in 2000, when he formed the group LEMUR (League of Electronic Musical Urban Robots) in Brooklyn, NY. The artist collective created musical robots under Singer's direction through 2009. LEMUR's work spanned a gamut of artistic pursuits with these instruments.

LEMUR produced concerts with noted musicians, from popsters They Might Be Giants to electronic music pioneers such as Morton Subotnick; created interactive robotic installations for museums and galleries; commissioned compositions for the instruments; hosted residencies at their makerspace, LEMURplex; and created orchestrions for major artists and institutions, including Grammy-winning guitarist Pat Metheny and the Smithsonian National Gallery of Art.

The Metheny orchestrion was comprised of over 150 mechanisms and traveled with Metheny as his backing band for his extensive 2010 "Orchestrion" tour, throughout Europe, North America and Asia.

About Eric Singer

Eric Singer is an artist, musician, engineer and programmer and the force behind SingerBots, his company for creating robotic musical instruments. He is the world's leading expert in creating modern orchestrions, large installations of musical robots.

Singer has over 20 years of experience creating electronic musical instruments and interactive and robotic art. In addition to his electronic art work, Singer is also the founder of the New York City region of the Burning Man Festival, a founding member of the Brooklyn guerilla arts group The Madagascar Institute, the creator of Pyrotopia, a Pittsburgh fire arts festival and has appeared on The Learning Channel's "Junkyard Wars."

Singer holds a BS in Computer Engineering from Carnegie Mellon, a Diploma in Music Synthesis from Berklee College of Music and an MS in Computer Science from New York University. He has also been an Adjunct Professor at the New York University Interactive Telecommunication Program and the Carnegie Mellon University College of Fine Arts. Since 2009, Singer has lived and worked in Pittsburgh—"Robot City"—and home to his alma mater, Carnegie Mellon University.

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Editors: Images and video available upon request. Please contact press@singerbots.com for more information.