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## Sonic Ecosystems and Natural Cycles: An Immersive Multimedia Improvisation

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## ***Sonic Ecosystems and Natural Cycles: An Immersive Multimedia Improvisation***

For Electroacoustic ensemble with video

Jorge Variego  
University of Tennessee Knoxville

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### **PRESENTED AT**

ATMI National Conference 2025  
Thursday, October 30, 2025  
Spokane, WA

Paper/Performance (25 minutes)

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### **ABSTRACT**

This proposal presents a 20-minute free improvisation based on the concept of natural cycles, performed by a student-led electroacoustic ensemble. The multimedia improvisation explores the ensemble as a creative sonic ecosystem where sounds emerge, dissipate, and reconstruct in altered forms, mimicking natural processes like growth, decay, and regeneration.

The student performers in the electroacoustic ensemble function as agents within this ecosystem, engaging with each other and the environment in real-time, shaping the soundscape through real-time interactions, while a visual component responds dynamically to their actions, enhancing the immersive experience. Group improvisation in a multimedia setting fosters deep connections through sound. This interaction promotes heightened listening, real-time adaptation, and collaboration, fostering social skills through sound.

This performance proposal is deeply rooted in the collaboration between Brian Eno and John Hassel in *Possible Musics*, where acoustic and electronic elements interweave, creating music that is simultaneously otherworldly and rooted in global sonic traditions. As Brian Eno noted, “Music is a process, not a thing.” This performance proposal situates music as an evolving network.

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## ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Jorge Variego  
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Jorge Variego was born in Rosario, Argentina. He is a former Fulbright Scholar and is currently Assistant Professor of Music and Technology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and is the director of the composition program at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival.

His music can be heard in the Parma, Albany Records, CMMAS, Centaur and Naxos libraries. Among his recent research endeavors, his book “Composing with Constraints” was published by Oxford University Press in 2021. In 2023 he was the guest in many festivals, including the inaugural Festival de Música Algorítmica y Modular hosted by the Universidad Nacional de Musica de Perú, in Lima. In the 23-24 season, his music was performed by the Oak Ridge Symphony, the Bryan Symphony and the Knoxville Symphony.

Jorge is the founder director of the Domino Ensemble a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion, commission, and performance of new music with improvisation. The group released “Purple Ego” (Centaur – 2019) and “Recompensa” (Centaur – 2023) among other recordings. In 2023 the ensemble performed at the Big Ears festival in collaboration with British author Geoff Dyer and in 2024 presented “Recompensa” at the ShapeShifter Lab in Brooklyn, NY.

He is also the founder director of the UT Electroacoustic Ensemble, a student group dedicated to free improvisation with electronic media and is the Treasurer of ATMI and a member of the Society of Composers National Council.

Jorge is the 2025 Composition Fellow by the TN Arts Commission.  
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The University of Tennessee Electroacoustic Ensemble explores experimental approaches to sound through the integration of live electronics, improvisation, and acoustic instruments. Performers use technology such as laptops, controllers, and audio processing software to create dynamic, unpredictable sonic environments. This ensemble encourages creative collaboration and interdisciplinary projects, allowing students to explore sound in non-traditional ways. Since its inception, the UT EE has performed at the International Improvised Music Conference in Minneapolis, the Big Ears Festival and the Electro Music Festivals.