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Sound Of Nangqên

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Sound Of Nangqên (film)

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COMPOSITION PERFORMED AT

ATMI National Conference 2025
Spokane, WA

ATMI Showcase Concert
Thursday, October 30, 2025

ABSTRACT

Sound of Nangqên is an electroacoustic composition that delves into the connection between sound, place, and culture, inspired by Tibet's "Highland of Zen" in Nangqên County, Qinghai Province. This piece immerses the listener in the region's spiritual and cultural soundscape, blending 20 gigabytes of field recordings from nature, local voices, and traditional Tibetan instruments with analog and digital electronics. Instruments like the dungchen, rol mo, damaru, and kangling, combined with sounds from everyday life, evoke a sense of reverence and presence, offering a glimpse into Tibetan Buddhist rituals and meditation.

The work integrates electronic elements created with VCV Rack, the ARP 2500 synthesizer, and cello, capturing a fluid manipulation of sound that reflects the evolving Tibetan soundscape and the composer's fieldwork experience. The ARP 2500 and cello provide rich analog tones, contrasting with the organic field recordings, creating a fusion of East and West. The VCV Rack patch adds texture, enabling real-time manipulation of sound, and creating a dynamic relationship between the natural and synthetic.

Sound of Nangqên seeks to encapsulate the essence of Nangqên, where traditional ritual sounds and modern technology coexist, telling a story of cultural transformation and preservation in a changing world. The piece symbolizes the interplay between tradition and innovation, as both Tibetan rituals and modern technologies shape the evolving ways we experience and document these sounds.

Director: Chakme
Producer/Music: Jiayue Cecilia Wu
Photographer : Ri Jia
Voice: Tsewang Lhundup, Nam Tse, Khenchok Tsering
Ritual Instruments: Norbu Nyima, Shakya Sherab
Ox Horn Huqin : Suo Tse
Celleto: Chris Chafe
Recording and Audio Engineering: Jiayue Cecilia Wu
Voice; Tibetan ritual instruments; Celleto; Ox Horn Huqin; electronics,

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

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Dr. Jiayue Cecilia Wu (AKA 武小慈), a scholar, composer, audio engineer, and president of ATMI, specializes in utilizing music technology for healing and social impact. With a B.Sc. in Design and Engineering, she spent over a decade as a music producer and consultant with EMI Records, Universal Music Group, and Shazam Entertainment. Her academic journey includes a Master of Art in Music, Science, and Technology from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in Media Arts and Technology from UC Santa Barbara. Dr. Wu's music has been performed globally across Asia, the U.S., Canada, Australia, South Africa, Brazil, and Europe. Her intellectual contributions include 27 peer-reviewed journal articles, three book chapters, two book publications, and over 100 multimedia compositions, exhibitions, and installations. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor and Program Director at the University of Colorado's College of Arts and Media. Dr. Wu actively contributes to her academic community as a peer reviewer for high-impact research journals, chair of the DEI Committee at the Audio Engineering Society (AES), and in leadership roles with SEAMUS and the International Computer Music Association (ICMC). Globally recognized for her expertise, she has delivered guest lectures and workshops on Embodied Sonic Meditation at prominent R1 research institutions and international events.