A Guide to the Soundwalk

Sonic Sedimentation at Tanner Springs Park
Sonic Sedimentation

Yuan-Chen Li imagines the process of sedimentation in this musical composition.

Tanner Springs Park is one of a series of parks just north of downtown Portland. Streetcars surround it on three sides, near highways, a train station, and the Willamette River. Wetlands and history were the themes of the park’s undertaking.

Yuan-Chen’s 40-minute acoustic soundwalk promenades through six “stations.” They guide the listeners with musical signposts through moments of turbulent environmental sound, the harmony of singing water, and the joy of human interactions. Sonic Sedimentation encourages one’s inner thoughts to unfold.
station 1

Urban Park

Though Tanner Springs Park is one of millions of Urban Parks around the world, it retains a Portland sensibility. In fact, on many maps Tanner Springs Park is simply labeled: Portland Park.
Dancing in the Rain

The rain came and went, leaving traces on the metal park bench as well as on the sonic canvas.
The northwest corner of the park is not only the best spot for sun bathing, but also great for musical ethnography. What is the song played from the car passing by?
“A spring bubbles up at the top of a large open grassy meadow, trickling down to a wetland pond, sunken 6 feet below street level.”

- GreenWorks
“The springs connect the park to Tanner Creek that at one time flowed openly through this area; today it flows through large pipes beneath the city streets.”

- Portland Parks & Recreation
Instrumental Finale

Inspired by the soundscape of Tanner Springs Park, the composer wishes to share with the audience that the musical elements of this “station” are reminiscences of the following:

- Harmony of Portland’s Traffic Noises
- Pitch collection of streetcars
- Rhythm section of the water
Credits

Yuan-Chen Li
Audio Production: field recordings, editing, and mixing
Performance: digital instruments
Composition and improvisation
Words and photography
Concept and guide book design

Joe Lambke
Photography and graphics

Branic Howard
Audio mastering

Special Thanks & Support

Third Angle New Music
 Portland Parks and Recreation

soundcloud.com/composerycli
KidCities.org
www.openfieldrecording.com
thirdangle.org
portland.gov/parks