

## Artist Statement

Rong Shi's "Symphony of the Cosmos: Explorations on Planetary Molecular Music" project delves into the profound interplay between the universe and sound, enveloping audiences in multi-sensory experiences while unearthing the captivating melodies of the solar system's eight planets.

*"If you want to find the secrets of the universe, think in terms of energy, frequency and vibration."*

— Nikola Tesla

"Symphony of the Cosmos" consist of an immersive audio-visual experience and an interactive installation. The moving image showcases a fusion of motion images and synchronised sound, projected onto the "Molecular Symphony Orchestra" installation. In the interactive portion, the audience is invited to select a planet to position at the centre of the installation. By utilising a pressure sensor, they can then trigger vibrations in the surrounding chemical element balls. Each of the 8 planets corresponds to 18 chemical element balls, generating a symphony of vibrations. Concurrently, the visual representation of the chosen planet's vibration is projected throughout the entire space.

Throughout this process, the audience assumes the role of conductor, empowering a specific planet to lead the "molecular symphony orchestra" and convey performance instructions to the entire ensemble at any given moment. The 18 surrounding chemical element balls act as players, continuously vibrating and producing a harmonious yet resonant ensemble until the planet is changed.

Through the art of data sonification, Shi composes a symphony that resonates with the molecular harmonies of our celestial neighbours. By meticulously collecting the chemical compositions to get the spectral data of each planet, Shi unveils the frequencies of molecular vibrations. With deftness and creativity, these frequencies are transmuted into pitch and volume using the visual programming language, birthing a distinct "Molecular Music" for each planetary element. Through projection, the installation creates dynamic images that map the entire space into a molecular core resembling a planet. The visual experience constantly evolves, mirroring the molecular vibrations through a captivating display of sine wave patterns.

Fundamentally, this project illuminates a novel perspective that transcends the confines of the material world. At its core, everything in existence consists of atoms perpetually dancing, consequently emanating a distinct sound proclaiming that everything is sound. Within this paradigm, Shi explores the profound notion that not only are the planets a manifestation of sound, but so are you, and indeed, so is every being.

In an era where virtuality reigns supreme, Shi firmly believes that it is imperative for individuals to revere the nature of matter itself—a resolute understanding that all things vibrate and pulsate with an intrinsic sonic essence. In unveiling this primal truth, "Symphony of the Cosmos" invites contemplation, urging humanity to rekindle their fascination with the symphony of the universe and reconnect with the pulsating heartbeat of existence.