

Soundsustainability: Lugano, Switzerland | October 4 -7 | 2023
FKL | SUPSI-DFA | RSI | UNIL | PHSZ
RSI, Via Guglielmo Canevascini 3, 6900 Lugano, Switzerland

Ring of the Yamanote © 1989/2008 Richard Lerman

Recording was done in Dec 1989 while on an Asian Cultural Council residency in Tokyo. The Yamanote Line began in 1885 as a freight line circling Tokyo and connects to many other rail lines. It now carries 3.5 million passengers a day. This was to be an acoustic ecology project using video8 to focus on 3 aspects listed below. I used two mics...a small one I made embedded into a bamboo tube 33 cm x 5 cm diameter and a 2nd channel using a regular mic.

The 3 Channels of sound/video are:

- 1. *the 29 stations***, playing in a constant loop beginning at Ueno Station
- 2. *Outside the stations*** (& *sometimes in the neighborhoods*)
- 3. *Arriving & Leaving the stations***

Parts 2 and 3 play back in random order with no repeats and begin to shuffle again after the title appears.

I gathered about 4-5 hours of material and explored some neighborhoods more than others. At some of these neighborhoods, I set up small site specific sound installation, for example at Yanaka Cemetery, the location of the Women's graves of the Tokugawa Emperor. I also met a Tatami craftsman and was able to record as he worked. I am sure that Tokyo sounds and looks very different today than it did in 1989. The Sony video8 camera (visible in some of the locations) had good stereo sound, 16 bit 48K. Yamanote will stay as standard definition due to complexities of DVD programming.