

Soundsustainability: Lugano, Switzerland | October 4 -7 | 2023

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Arctic Work from 2014 – 2022 © 2023 BMI

Beginning in 2014, I made many trips to the north of Finland at the Kilpisjärvi Biological Research Station, traveling also in Norway and Sweden. Initially my objective was to record the sound of water freezing into ice. Recording that was VERY difficult--sounds of melting ice was much easier. In 2019, I recorded the sound of water freezing into ice, & that piece is included here. Sounds of melting ice are extraordinary and some of the very high pitches are the rough edges of ice rubbing together.

I want the audio/video to communicate listening/looking in Arctic regions. As with most of my work, there is extensive use of piezo devices and other self built mics. In 2014, I began using carbon fiber rods--a great material to harvest sonic vibrations. They also function as single ended strings, rich with harmonics. Below find listed the 11 pieces/excerpts.

1. Moth, Grass and Wind above Lake Kilpisjärvi, Finland Oct 2014 piezo discs on plant stems
2. Water freezing into ice, near Kilpisjärvi Oct 2019 piezo devices, hydrophone & camera mic-I held the camera upside down so the camera mics were closer to the ice sounds on the surface of the lake.
3. Lake Kilpisjärvi, two carbon fiber rods in snow and wind, Mar 2015 Each rod w/ piezo
4. Skiers on Lake Kilpisjärvi, carbon fiber rods Mar 2015 Each rod had a small piezo attached.
5. Ice Wall Melting, South of Skibotn, Norway, carbon fiber rod, April 2015. A single rod w/piezo disk.
6. The Muonio and Etuväylä Rivers at the border of Finland and Sweden w/ hydrophone, piezos on carbon fiber rod and tree branches, May 2015 - the primary sound is that of the hydrophone recording the rapidly moving collisions of ice in this fast river.
7. Melting Ice, Hydrophone, Sky June 2015 melting ice recorded with hydrophone. The carbon rod formed a 'bridge' between ice and wood dock.
8. Brooklet below Mt. Saana June 2019 small hydrophone, carbon rod & small microphone
9. Fish drying rack, Nesseby, Norway Oct 2022 Piezo disks on support wire, and on plants
10. South of Hamningberg, Norway Oct 2022 Sound recorded from piezo disk on slate in strong wind. I was stunned to find that the sound is similar both forwards and backwards. A 7 minute version of this piece uses 3 video shots shuffled in the left, center and right while playing forwards and backwards.
11. Beach at Ekkerøy, Norway Oct 2022 hydrophone in sand, carbon rods & small microphone

Richard Lerman September 2023