

# Loompianola CD

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The Loompianola CD [1] is a collection of 5 tracks recorded and produced out of an interesting and creative idea of interfacing and combining a loom and a piano. Both objects share intrinsic properties of manipulating strings and percussion through mechanical parts and, in this project, they also share a historical background that is linked to the industrial history of Michigan – USA.

The project shows a solid conceptual background and historical research and the presented results are visually, and sonically interesting. Furthermore, it shows potential for improvement and further experimentation.

From a musical perspective, the 5 tracks presented on the CD falls a little short of the expectations that are suggested to the listener after reading the project description and background.

Track 1, *Meet the Strings*, gives an initial idea of what sonic materials to expect from the Loompianola instrument, and also the recording techniques, which unfortunately shows a bit of amateurism in what concerns capture quality, audio mixing and mastering.

Track 2, *Improvisation nº 1 – Rhythm*, displays some more interesting sonic materials and introduces sounds from the piano. The well achieved rhythmic and melodic structures resembles those of DJ Shadow's Giving up the Ghost track from the 2002 Private Press album.

Track 3, *Strands in Descent*, presents low sounding layers of electronic sounds that are combined with the percussive elements that are already present in the previous tracks.

Track 4, *Eterna*, is where the Loompianola exhibits its potential as a musical object and instrument. As opposed to the other tracks where the objective of introducing and experimenting with the Loompianola is evidenced, *Eterna* displays an interesting composition that explores several sonic entities that are possible by exploring the instrument's strings and percussive elements.

Track 5, *Weaving is at once*, where a narrator describes the project over sampled sounds recorded from the instrument, is a documental track with little musical or aesthetical interest.

Overall the project and resulting CD depicts an interesting historical and sonic research. Undoubtedly the Loompianola is a very interesting musical object/instrument with a very strong performative aspect. The loom and the piano are themselves very captivating objects, big in size and complex in their mechanical nature, both characteristics that draws attention and curiosity, hence the Loompianola is a success from the initial idea.

Given that this is an initial phase of a project that has potential for growing, it would be expected more professional recording and producing techniques from future tracks, and, from a musical perspective, it would be very interesting to hear the original timbre of 100-year-old Grinnell Brothers piano with more emphasis and precision, especially if more complex harmonic and melodic structures were explored.

## ENDNOTES

[1] <https://loompianola.bandcamp.com>

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Born in Rio de Janeiro, graduated in Physics at University of São Paulo, Doctor in computer music and interactive arts at Portuguese Catholic University. André has been working as musical assistant and technical developer for computer music since 2005. He has worked in many electroacoustic music projects with important composers and musicians such as Jean Claude Risset, Flo Menezes, Miguel Azguime, Arthur Kampela, Arditti Quartet, Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, Osesp, Sound'Arte Ensemble, Linea Ensemble, E.A.R Unit California, among others. Alongside the academic work in computer music, André has developed a career in the development of commercial interactive installations for multiple purposes and has worked with clients such as Nike, Sesc-Sp, Mtv, Globo, Hasbro, Bayer, among others.