

The Week of Sound Charter

The Week of Sound association aim is to encourage every human being to realize that the sound is a fundamental element of personal balance in his relationship to others and the to the world, in its economic environmental and social dimensions, as well as medical, industrial and cultural. It considers sound matters as an access door to the world.

Health, environment sound, recording techniques and sound diffusion, the relationship picture and sound as well as music and sound expression are the five concerned main sectors.

1. Health

The limits of auditory perception are not extensible in level, taking into account human listening abilities. The ear does not have a lid, human beings constantly listening to a world that relies increasingly on sound, audiovisual and close listening proximity with noise levels higher and higher, and often continuously.

- Inform, upon enrollment, risk accelerated degradation of the subsequent hearing to listening at high levels, too long and too often repeated.
- Tell dramatic consequences of accidental alteration of the hearing, that it is accompanied or not of tinnitus or hyperacusis with consequences of isolation, depression difficulty or inability to integrate into the world of work.
- Understand the impact of unwanted noise on blood pressure, sleep and concentration.
- Conduct hearing tests systematically in newborns and throughout life. Good hearing and understanding are prerequisites to the acquisition of basic learning and integration into the family and social environment.
- Encourage wearing the hearing aid.
- Support scientific research in physiology, auditory perception and hearing aid.

2. The sound environment

The sound environment is an essential component of our balance as it affects our personal and collective behavior. Limit noise, design atmospheres listen, control acoustic spaces, reinforcing the diversity of audio players are the conditions of a better way of living together. Worldwide, densification environments and increasing urbanization make sound space a concern of professionals and citizens involved in the transformation of their living spaces.

- Learn to listen to the environment in order to control the effects concentration, tranquility, violence ...
- Teach the scale of noise levels, as the degree Celsius for temperature.
- Promote skills to integrate acoustic sound comfort in the design and construction of individual and collective housing and urban infrastructure.
- Integrating acoustic and sound data in planning documents (travel plan, local urban development plan, quiet areas ...).
- Make a societal priority of acoustic treatment of public places, including schools.
- Expand the implementation of sound maps of cities.
- Create audio observatory territories that are both places of memory and creation of sound identity landscape of tomorrow.
- Encourage innovative industries that are dedicated to the quality of our sound environment.

3. Techniques for recording and sound reinforcement.

Electroacoustic sound diffusion techniques are introduced into our lives and we seem familiar while we do not know the operation and underlying sound alchemy. However, means for recording and reproducing allow to enter at any time and in any place in the privacy of the individual. Compression called "dynamic sound" generates a way of listening to music and speaking without nuance, even in noisy listening environments. Diverted from its original purpose, too much compression leaves no breathing time to the tired listener who no longer has the strength to perform critical listening and despite himself becomes the receiver of increasingly invasive messages.

- Integrate the teaching of sound in school curricula, awareness of sources of degradation of the original sounds and know that the loudspeaker is not in itself a musical instrument.
- Educate professional development and culture techniques for recording and sound reinforcement.
- Focus in concert or public broadcast, multisource techniques to obtain a better homogeneity of restitution and reduce the overall noise level.
- Recommend recording and downloading of music closest to its original quality.
- Recommend a minimum dynamic sound recordings respecting musical nuances.
- Develop sound archives in charge of sound heritage and regard them as key players in the development of our societies.

4. Sound and picture relationship

In general access to audiovisual and multimedia context, the sound is a key element of visual perception and the final perceived quality. The sound design is an integral part of the audiovisual work and live performance.

- Teach children that the quality of sound determines the quality of the display.
- Improve the quality of sound reproduction for personal and shared multimedia devices.
- Regulate the sound levels between all television programs, radio or film. Compliance with a minimum sound dynamics should be required.
- Encourage all over the country, the development of cinema theatres with acoustic comfort and multichannel diffusion.
- Integrate the sound quality in any event soundtrack.
- Recognize the contribution of professionals in its creation.

5. Musical expression and practice

Musical expression, voice and musical instrument, is a personal and a collective listening to oneself and other balancing factor. Scientific research shows how musical practice contributes to the development and maintenance of cognitive performance at all stages of life. It increases the ability of learning and memory, and also participates in other skills, especially for children.

- Make it known that musical practice is an element of personal and collective development, meeting and social ties.
- Be aware that the collective practice of music is a way to fight against violence and exclusion.
- Consider musical practice as the development of a sound repository.
- Encourage and facilitate the practice of music school to university, family and society.
- Extend artistic practices by recognizing the sound arts as an area of world cultures.
- Develop suitable places of collective musical practice in any new school and university construction.
- Develop sound creation through the use of technologies and innovative tutorials.

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