

Back to the Future: Popular Music and Time

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DIRETORIA DE APOIO À PRODUÇÃO
Programação Visual e Comunicação



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Abstracts

09:30

You gotta move: duration, systems theory and musical creativity

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In this presentation I offer a critique of the kind of intellectual frameworks typically used to explain creativity in music (for example the kind of research questions typically asked of a student commencing a music project at postgraduate level). These questions are typically analytical, say around the conventions of a genre and how they can be used to produce new work, but they fail in my view to acknowledge creativity as a process, analytical questions being more suitable to assess a finished work, not one that hasn't even started yet, or is in process. The conventional academic wisdom is that the "new" is a revoicing or recombining of the familiar, but in this formulation, the "new" remains essentially untheorised. I use concepts around creativity as novelty from Henri Bergson, such as duration and movement, to offer a critique of systems theories of creativity (Toynbee, McIntyre and Csikszentmihalyi) that seek to reduce the creative process to a series of "choices" between different pre-existing creative possibilities. In its place I propose a focus on novelty, duration and movement as aspects of creative process.