

Chirp:
NEC's Music Technology
Showcase

The Battle of the Quiet Clown
Sound Installation

Lautaro Mantilla, curator

Wednesday, May 7, 2025
5:00 p.m.
Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre

The Battle of the Quiet Clown is a sound installation part of a series entitled *Battles* which is a collection of pieces by Lautaro Mantilla exploring the struggles of contemporary society.

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*:

Battle = A sustained fight between large organized armed forces / Fight or struggle tenaciously to achieve or resist something

Quiet = Making little or no noise / carried out discreetly, secretly, or with moderation / make or become silent, calm, or still

Clown = A comic entertainer, especially one in a circus, wearing a traditional costume and exaggerated makeup / an unsophisticated country person; a rustic

The Performers' Manifesto:

- We like to explore long form improvisation
- We want to challenge and observe what (and who) is a clown in music/life in 2025
- We are studying another side of the interaction with technology in music. Instead of asking technology to emulate what humans can do, we are asking humans to emulate what technology can do
- We want to offer the NEC community an opportunity to release their anger, stress, fury, fears, or to confront their relationship with clowns

Performers:

Beth Ann Jones, bass, electronics
Nick Charlton – drums, electronics
Evan Haskin – guitar, electronics
Gabe Boyarin – guitar, electronics
Aaron Michael Smith – viola, electronics
Lautaro Mantilla - clown

All the music is improvised and made by the performers, their instruments and their machines.

FOR THE AUDIENCE:

Feeling stressed? Angry? Tired? Afraid? Defeated? Hopeless?

NO WORRIES! This is your opportunity to blow off steam, to unburden, to release your fury, your fears, your aggressive nature. We all have some of that, right?

Simple rules:

- Grab a plastic ball.
- Try to hit the clown with the ball—hard, soft, or however you like.
- The more you provoke the clown, the more music you'll hear.
- The clown's goal is to stay still and silent.
- Your goal is to make him move, dance, or dodge.
- Every movement triggers the musicians on stage to create sound and improvise based on the clown's reactions and your interactions.
- Please do not enter the clown rink

Upcoming Music Technology Showcase Series concerts

Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre

Chirp 6

John Mallia, curator

Thursday, May 8, 8:00 p.m.

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Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall,
and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited.

Assistive listening devices are available for all Jordan Hall concerts;
contact the head usher or house manager on duty or inquire at the Coat Room.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.

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