

Contents

To all whom it may concern 11

Introduction 17

Steam Machine Music as point of departure in a media
archaeological excavation of machine music 17

Questions concerning machines, technology and
practice-based research 25

The traditional notion of electronic and machine music 37

Media Archaeology 53

Foucault and the archaeology of knowledge 54

Archaeology 58

The media archaeological approach 61

Media archaeological discourses 61

Media archaeological topoi 62

The history of losers 64

Imaginary media archaeology 66

Cultural engineering 68

Media archaeological artworks as research 70

Sounding media archaeological art pieces 73

Restoring the forgotten 79

Problems, neglected aspects and the term “media archaeology” 82

(Non)discursive media archaeological readings of Foucault 86

An expanded reading of the media archaeology
of Wolfgang Ernst 90

Time-criticality, materiality and temporal processuality:

Introducing operative diagrammatics 95

Operative diagrammatics 99

The question of Kittler and Ernst's phonograph 103

The media archaeological repairman 108

Real and Symbolic Machines 111

Machine music through the ears of the repairman 111

The repairmen of Music Box Society International 117

Comb and dampening 119

The machine as symbolising its action 126

Symbolic representation and the pianola 129

Sign and symbol 135

Ontology of malfunction and accidents 138

Timekeeping 144

The constant speed of the music box:

Introducing speed regulation 144

From the early days of computer music 152

The MIDI clock 153

Questions concerning timekeeping and their
philosophical implications 156

Discrete or continuous time 158

Synthetic and Imaginary Sound 165

The imaginary machine 165

The Siren as media archaeological topos 167

The Ancient Siren 169

Robert Hooke 172

Hermann von Helmholtz 174

The Telharmonium: A magical electrical instrument 175

The first commercial Telharmonium: The recurring siren 179

The second Telharmonium: Alternating current 181

The repairman's Telharmonium 183

Emergency sirens 184

Imaginary mechanical musical instruments 186

The materiality of the computer's square wave 190

Synthesisers and science fiction utopia 193

Sirens sounding off 194

Concluding remarks 201

Notes 207

References 222