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Sound Culture
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MY MUSICAL DNA - why a map

"*The map precedes the territory*" Baudrillard

"*Mythology replaces history*" Barthes

Maps chart directions into the known, and also into the unfamiliar, unknown areas. Map as a way to see, to externalize. Map as a place. Map as metaphor for our understanding of historical, scientific, personal and artistic concerns. And as an online experience the viewer navigates, a map that looks like our genetic structure, or molecular architecture.

This sound map, **My Musical DNA**, is not exhaustive, is not in any hierarchical order, is not 'which comes first', or 'which is more important', it is not a true history. It is random access of 10 parts out 793 MPSI (*Most Potent Sonic Influences*) of my being. Since I have been investigating sound and music for quite some time, there are almost unlimited number of associations between sound and meaning. As a psychiatrist must first undergo analysis (and therapy) if they are to know the process of psychoanalysis, I feel a person should examine why they do the things they do. (Euripides & postmodernism: *question everything*). Why do we react in such a way when we hear a particular sound, what emotions does it trigger, why do you always play this riff when you improvise. It's part of your musical DNA.

I've just been watching *Altered States*, the 1980 film by Ken Russell (with a totally amazing soundtrack by John Corigliano). The main character is researching what the connection is between a mental state - brought on by a psychotropic substance - and the actual physical genetic material in the human body. Does our DNA contain within it the history of our evolution as a species? And if so can we access it and relive the early hominid experience, pre Homo Sapien? Actor William Hurt does, in wild hallucinations and in his own flesh. Timothy Leary, prophet of psychedelics and probably one of the models for the film (along with Dr John Lilly and his Isolation Tank (listening to echoes of John Cage in his)) has written about Exo-psychology, or the unmasking of our DNA as blueprint for future evolutions, after we've left the earth's embrace.

Therefore if we can access our personal history of musical influences then it can be mapped and traced. For what reason: just because it's good to shine a light on your unconscious reflexive motivations. This is about the expression, as lines of code express themselves on a website, you don't see the code, only the result. The DNA code maps what color hair and if you're likely to have a heart condition. Musical DNA, the artist tapping into their own layers of substrata, acknowledging their Most Potent Sonic Influences. And by scrolling over the image, you experience a really different kind of music player.