COMPOSER RELEASES A ONE MILLION HOUR LONG SONG BASED ON PI
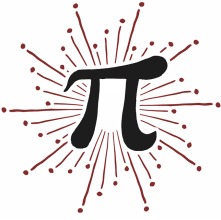
In honor of "Pi Day" (3.14.2020) electronic music composer Canton Becker has released one of the longest songs ever composed. It takes 114 years to play the song from beginning to end. "Techno 2020" is Becker's second million-hour composition. On Pi Day 2019, he released "Shepard's Pi", the longest song ever composed. *

HOW TECHNO 2020 WAS COMPOSED

Becker employed a computer to bring his two million-hour long compositions to life.

Becker programmed — or *composed* — an algorithm that generates his music using the first billion digits of pi (π). These digits supply the "turn signals" that determine every musical change in the song. Each digit (3.1415…) was responsible for orchestrating approximately four seconds of music. The electronic instruments and sound samples used throughout the composition were carefully composed by Becker months in advance.

Because the numbers in pi never repeat, each of the million hours in "Shepard's Pi" is in fact unique. Listeners who fast forward to some distant moment in the song are virtually guaranteed to find themselves listening to something that nobody else – including the composer himself – has ever heard before.

> * The official world record for the longest composition may belong to John Cage's "As Slow as Possible" as it can be performed — in theory — to accommodate any imaginable length. Presently, a performance of the piece on organ in Halberstadt, Germany is expected to take 639 years. However, it is very difficult to experience this performance as only one note is played on the organ every few years, and the performance itself is not being recorded.

HOW TO LISTEN

As it is not practical to distribute or download a 60,000 gigabyte MP3 file, you must use your computer or phone to listen to this composition. Visit **https://pisongs.com/techno** to operate a virtual tape deck that lets you scan forwards or backwards to any moment in the composition.

When you discover a section of the song that you especially like, you can share it with others, or even give it a name that will forever appear whenever anyone else encounters that portion of the song.

NOTE: On the official release date of the song, March 14, 2020, the home page of pisongs.com will link to "Techno 2020", so the URL to publicize will simply be **https://pisongs.com**

IN THE COMPOSER'S OWN WORDS

"What I love about this project is that when I listen to the composition, I often hear things that surprise me. I'll stop what I'm doing and listen carefully because I'm experiencing something totally new. I'll hear my sounds combined in ways I would never have thought to arrange them myself."

"We think of computers as being predictable, of only doing what they're programmed to do. But when given the right instructions, computers can help to create art that even their programmers will find astonishing and delightful."

ABOUT CANTON BECKER

Canton Becker, a native of Santa Fe New Mexico, is an electronic music composer, DJ and programmer who has been using computers to make music since 1983. He has been creating algorithmic music since 1995, when he first combined his interests in artificial intelligence and music cognition at Northwestern University. Since 2000, Becker has released four albums of electronic music which can be found on Spotify, Bandcamp, Soundcloud, Apple, and Google Music.