

The Rest is Just Noise: John Cage Programming at the Henry

Published on Hankblog

URL: <http://hankblog.wordpress.com/2012/11/04/the-rest-is-just-noise-john-cage-programming-at-the-henry/>

As many of you know, this year is the 100th anniversary of John Cage's birth. Many arts and cultural institutions across the country are celebrating with John Cage programming, and the Henry is partaking in our own unique way. Within the past week we have staged a performance of Cage's *33 1/3 Performed by the Audience* which happened at the Henry on Friday. Read more about the performance [HERE](#).

Earlier today we held a sold out workshop on home mushroom cultivation, [Fungus Among Us](#). You might be wondering "how this is a John Cage related program?" John Cage was an amateur mycologist during his 80 years. Don't let the adjective "amateur" fool you though, Cage founded the [New York Mycological Society](#) with a small group of other mycologically-inclined people over 40 years ago. He also amassed a mycology collection during his lifetime which includes "correspondence, journals, newsletters, pamphlets, ephemera and realia related to mushrooms." Cage gifted this collection to Special Collections at the University of Santa Cruz, where it can be researched and perused at the [McHenry Library](#). Honoring the music John Cage composed during his lifetime is obviously necessary in a celebration of his life, but so is mycology. You can thank our Public Programs Coordinator, Whitney Ford-Terry, for such inspired programming honoring John Cage as the multidimensional man that he was.

*Fungus Among Us* was a workshop held at the Henry which was an introduction in cultivating your own edible mushrooms at home. We provided shiitake Grow-At-Home kits from [Sno-Valley Mushrooms](#) for the participants and helped them with their first step, rehusing the logs. Then Pacita Roberts with Hildegard Hendrickson from the [Puget Sound Mycological Society](#) gave a fantastic presentation on foraging for mushrooms.

If you are sad that you missed out on these two events, you have another chance to celebrate Cage's multifaceted legacy in a unique way at the end of this month. On November 30th, the Henry is celebrating Cage's vast and tremendously diverse output by hosting a performance by [Stacey Mastrian](#) and [Stephen F. Lilly](#) who will present selections that employ the voice in its many facets. These range from the simple, ethereal "[Experiences No. 2](#)" for solo voice with text by e e cummings, to readings from Cage's prolific body of written work, such as *Lecture on Nothing and Indeterminacy*. Add the Henry to your calendar for November 30th, 7-9 pm, and buy your tickets [here](#).