

Meeting of minds GRAPPE*: Gathering artists, students and teachers for a multidisciplinary take on soundscape design in schools

What if... we could make our schools a better place for teachers and students?

What if... the sound environment could be the key to make that happen?

This workshop is part of larger project where we – an interdisciplinary team of speech therapists, audiologists, educationists, engineers, teachers, and artists -- study the soundscape of schools, and their effect of learning, health, and well-being. We are gathering sound recordings, questionnaires, and data on perceived environmental sound in schools.

What we aim to understand, is how people and sounds interact in a highly vibrant environment – a school.

What we miss are creative solutions to actually improve the schools' soundscape and create a auditory healthy environment. Forget about acoustical panels and sound insulation, we are looking for out-of-the-box ideas.

Could we actually improve a learning environment by adding sounds? Should this be music, or nature sounds, or avant-garde soundscape installations or...? Should we actually make that choice, or offer students and teachers a choice? What learning activities require which kind of sound field? How can we tailor this to individual needs in a classroom environment? Which questions are missing in this list?

This workshop addresses musicians, teachers, students, and everybody who is passionate about making this better, and dares to explore new terrains.

The workshop will place on the 29th of March at CIRMMT from 9:30 to 12h30, with a coffee break. We will start with a 45-minute introduction on our project and give an overview of state-of-the-art knowledge on sound and learning. Subsequently, activities in small groups will be organized around four real-life class sounds and learning activities, and which soundscape designs could be proposed to improve those class situations. At the end, a synthesis of the generated ideas will be presented, and ideas for further work will be proposed.