

Set of Sounds: 2 – Sport

There's a crow living in the town of Peresvet near Moscow. Sometimes the bird flies to the neighbouring villages where it hears sheeps bleating. Crows are smart. They can imitate human speech. Mimicking bleating should be even easier. What we are hearing now is an authentic recording of a crow mimicking a sheep.

— *The bird reproducing various sounds*

The bird is up in a tall tree. We hear it from under the tree.

But that's not all. The tree is located next to the football field, and now hear the crow reproducing the sound of the referee' whistle.

— *The bird reproducing various sounds*

Of course, it is quite possible that we are wrong — crows can make those sounds, and not only at the football ground in Peresvet. But it's nice to think about a crow that imitates sport sounds.

Sport means sound. Remove the soundtrack from a football match, or any sport at all, and it will lose nearly all of its charm.

— *Kicking the ball. Music. Answering machine: You have dialed the number that doesn't exist*

Sport means voices. These days Russia is hosting the Football World Cup. One of the participant cities is Saransk, a relatively unknown, quiet and remote city in central Russia. When else would we hear the Portuguese language intertwining with Arabic, Persian with Danish? Both in the streets and in the stands.

To be fair, this sound was not recorded in Saransk, but in Stockholm. And it's not 2018, but 2011. But the sound remains the same regardless of place, time and language, right?

If you are doing field recordings of the world — just like people taking pictures of the world — you will soon realize that you rarely see such a strong and powerful emotions in one place like those at the stadium stands.

— *Fans of the Loutch Football club chanting at the terraces in Sergiyev Posad*

When people are watching the game the lose control of themselves almost completely. They release their emotions freely.

— *“OK riders, random start, riders ready, watch the gate!”*

The emotions run free just like bicycle racers running out of the automatic gates at the competition. We now hear them in the city of Krasnozavodsk near Moscow.

— *“OK riders, random start, riders ready, watch the gate!”*

This is the typical sound, a sort of mantra to the racers. Many of them know it very well. At least those who participate in contests.

— “Team representatives please proceed to the first-aid station“. — “OK riders, random start, riders ready, watch the gate!”

These words mean that the metal barriers at the start of the race are falling down.

— *Sound of metal barriers falling*

The racers get to the start. Many of them probably would hear those words in their sleep.

— *Ambience: bicycle race*

We often say that any music is nothing more than a combination of seven notes. That is technically correct. But music is impossible to perform without yet another note. A kind of eighth note that sounds like this.

— *Silence*

Well, well, something like that. It's silence, it's a pause.

— *Music playing*

Among all of Schubert's works, his Eighth symphony — the one we are hearing now — is probably the best known. It is often cited as one that features G.P., which is a *general pause*. Long — long by musical standards — stop, when all the instruments get silent. And this pause switches our mood.

— *Pause*

We can hear something similar in sports. The pause is the sound of a ski jumper as he flies off the ramp.

— *Sound of flight*

Or a jumping skateboarder. Fractions of a second spent in the air. A fraction of void, a moment of great nothing that changes everything. Like this one, as it happens at a ground near the culture and community centre in Sergiyev Posad. This is where the skateboarders could be heard in the evenings.

— *Skateboard sounds, music*

But the jump could be a one-way ticket.

— *Rocket taking off, the voices of the crowd*

This is the rocket launch. It takes off quickly, and we will never see it again.

— *Rocket taking off, the voices of the crowd*

Model rocketry is perhaps the most unconventional sport of all. Just think of it — a person is making a model, it takes several months, painstakingly gluing and soldering millimeter by millimeter, spending a lot of money. All this for the sake of a few seconds.

— *Rocket taking off, the voices of the crowd, vocal imitation of taking-off*

(It flies) And that's it.

Sports without sound is a wax-figure museum. Sports without picture — well, something like this.

— *Voices in the distance, background noises*

This is the hall of the Loutch Sports Centre in Sergiyev Posad. We are on the first floor. A basketball match is taking place at the second floor. We do not see the basketball game but we hear it — we feel it as the ceiling shakes above our heads.

— *Music in the distance, background noises*

The hall is dimly lit, but somewhere in the corner, there is a TV playing some sad and solemn music. Weary and tired athletes are passing like ghosts. And these mopping sounds — they do not match with the pathetic music on the telly. It doesn't match with the jumps upstairs. It sounds like some film music. It feels strange. There are occasional shouts.

— *Screaming sounds*

A second before the shouts the ceiling is rocking stronger. Here it is at last.

— *Scream, music, background noises*

And finally — the recording of the happiest athlete ever, if she or he could be called an athlete.

— *Splash*

This is an elderly pet dog. She is swimming a meter away from the shore of the Lesnoye Lake in Sergiyev Posad.

— *Background noise, breathing*

It's early August, a sunny and warm evening. This is why this dog is happy. She was released from the leash.

— *Splash*

She likes what she does. She's never heard of dope and winner's fee. And, most importantly. She doesn't have to compete with anyone or prove anything in order to be happy, swimming in this muddy water.

— *Background noise, breathing*

Recorded by Vladimir Kryuchev for oontz.ru

Music used — Go Tell It On The Molehill by Doctor Turtle, Symphonie n°8 "Inachevée", en si mineur. D.759 de Franz Schubert — archive.org/details/@spoutnik1337