



University  
of Victoria

Centre for Studies in  
Religion and Society

# SCHOLARS IN THE SQUARE



Sean Kiley



Leonid Ilyukhin: Apollo and Dionysus  
[https://leonid\\_ilyukhin.artstation.com/projects/4AxRn](https://leonid_ilyukhin.artstation.com/projects/4AxRn)

## Music and Trance: Mapping Altered States through Sound

Spiritual experiences often manifest as a result of altered states of awareness, which music has been shown to greatly influence. This project examines the elements of sound that give rise to this phenomenon. By isolating the specific stimuli, the study aims to gain a deeper understanding of how to influence states of awareness through music. In particular, through understanding and manipulation of these characteristics, musicians may engage listeners in ways that create or heighten experiences of spiritual trance and flow states.

**Sean Kiley** is a PhD student in Music Composition and Psychology at UVic. His compositions are deeply informed by research in music cognition, and explore the elements of sound and music that are most conducive to altered states of awareness.

14 March 2024  
5:00–6:00pm PT

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