Thaddeus Cahill, Patent: Art of and Apparatus For Generating and Distributing Music Electronically

Electronic Music Inquiry Unit

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 580,035, dated April 6, 1897. Application filed February 4, 1896, Serial No. 578,046. (no model.)
"The grand objects of my invention are to generate music electrically with tones of good quality and great power and with perfect musical expression, and to distribute music electrically generated by what we may term "original electrical generation" from a central station to translating instruments located at different points and receiving their music from the same central point; and my invention consists in the parts, improvements, combinations, and methods hereinafter described and claimed."...Thaddeus Cahill

More particularly the objects of my invention are (a) to generate by a practical and simple apparatus different series of rhythmic electrical vibrations, answering to the different notes of music with great power; (b) to produce pure electrical elemental tones, or at all events elemental tones free from harshness; (c) to produce the notes and chords of a musical composition with any timbre desired out of their electrical elements; (d) to afford facility to the performer to govern the expression perfectly, and (e) to distribute music, produced as before mentioned, from one central station to many translating instruments located in different places, so that; many persons, each in his own place, can enjoy tho music produced by a distant performer."


*Note: This document includes all ten photos from the Thaddeus Cahill patent and some of the written documentation. To see the full patent (55 pages) please visit the US Patent office website linked above, or go to https://pdfpiw.uspto.gov/ and search for patent # 580,035