

Seasons: Summer

*This is a collection of virtual walkthroughs of the installation, consisting of screen captures of the VR headset and binaural recordings from the perspective of the participant. For best results, wear headphones in order to hear the spatialization of audio originally for 5.1 surround sound.

Seasons: Summer is the first installation in the artist's Seasons series. The series is a collection of sound art installations for VR headset and 5.1 surround sound speaker system. While immersed in the VR experience, participants will traverse a 17' x 17' forest clearing environment, with 5 surrounding trees placed symmetrically around the space. These trees represent the speakers found in the physical space. Therefore, sounds coming from the speakers will have the illusion of coming from the trees while wearing the VR headset. As the participant explores the space, a variety of sounds are procedurally triggered. Sounds are a combination of field recordings, synthesized sounds, and acoustic instruments. Because each participant will traverse the space at different speeds and along different paths, the composition will be different each time, allowing for a fresh experience with multiple walkthroughs.

Summer is characterized by sounds which are bright, cheerful, colorful, vibrant, upbeat, and fantastical, in aims to convey the emotions and feelings associated with the titular season. The passing of time exasperates the environment. The longer a participant remains in the environment, the darker, stranger, and more distorted the sounds become. As the experience begins, only natural sounds are heard. After a period of time, the noise of airplanes, trains, and other man-made things begins to drown out the sounds of nature. This is accompanied by pleasant musical ideas. In its final stage, the sounds of nature have been completely silenced by the anthropophonic noises, and the musical gestures become increasingly warped. This change illustrates the concept of prolonged human contact with the natural world leading to the detriment of its beauty and serenity.

The artist wishes to extend his gratitude to his mentor, Dr. Nathan Wolek, as well as the faculty at UCF FIEA for their support and guidance. He also wishes to thank the Stetson University College of Arts and Sciences: Office of the Dean, as well as the SURE Grant, for funding this project. Without their support, this would not have been possible.