You’re Denied

You’re Denied combines acoustic music; electronic, sound synthesis; a rhythmic “drone” generated by a midi synthesizer, and recordings of voice and bird. The repetition and abrupt introductions of the components purposefully emphasizes their heterogeneous. Yet, the structure effects tradition in its compositional flow of foreground, background, and reiteration.

The acoustic music is improvised. Rhythms that drive two initial tenor voices were improvised by drumming. In the pure data computer music language, a bonk~ patch caught the percussive onsets of the drumming. The timing of these onsets drives the start and re-start of the voices saying “subsidiary” and “merger.”

The backbone of the composition is the rock rhythm: two bass beats, then a two-beat sustained chord. The e7sharp9 chord alternates with the e7flat5sharp9 voiced through the general midi synth voice (52). The machine-sounding general midi synth voice emphasizes the message of the piece. A Ukulele improvisation lays over these chord sequences. A Blue Jay tries to sing but is constantly interrupted and forced to restart.

A chilling voice that later becomes a falsetto both describes the needs of a medical patient, and the stamped response: “You’re Denied.” The falsetto ends as the last strummings of the Ukulele sound out with the last call of the Blue Jay.