

120 Years of Electronic Music

NAVIGATION

The 'Radio Harmonium' Serge Nikolaevich Rzhevkin, Russia, 1925

One of the earliest electronic instruments of the Soviet period, the Radio (or 'Cathodic') Harmonium was a three voice polyphonic cathode vacuum tube instrument controlled by a manual keyboard, designed for playing atonal music by the audio physicist Serge Nikolaevich Rzhevkin (1891-1981). The instrument was used by the philosopher Ivan Orlov in his investigations of aural phenomena.

Sources:

'A course of lectures on the theory of sound' Serge Nikolaevich Rzhevkin. Pergamon Press, 1963

Orlov, I. E. 1926e. "Experiments with Rzhevkin's cathode harmonium." A Collection of Articles in Musical Acoustics (Russian), State Institute of Musical Science, 1925, 1.