

# NIL

for guitar and interactive music system



photo by Raquel Fernandes

by V.J. Manzo

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## Performance Note

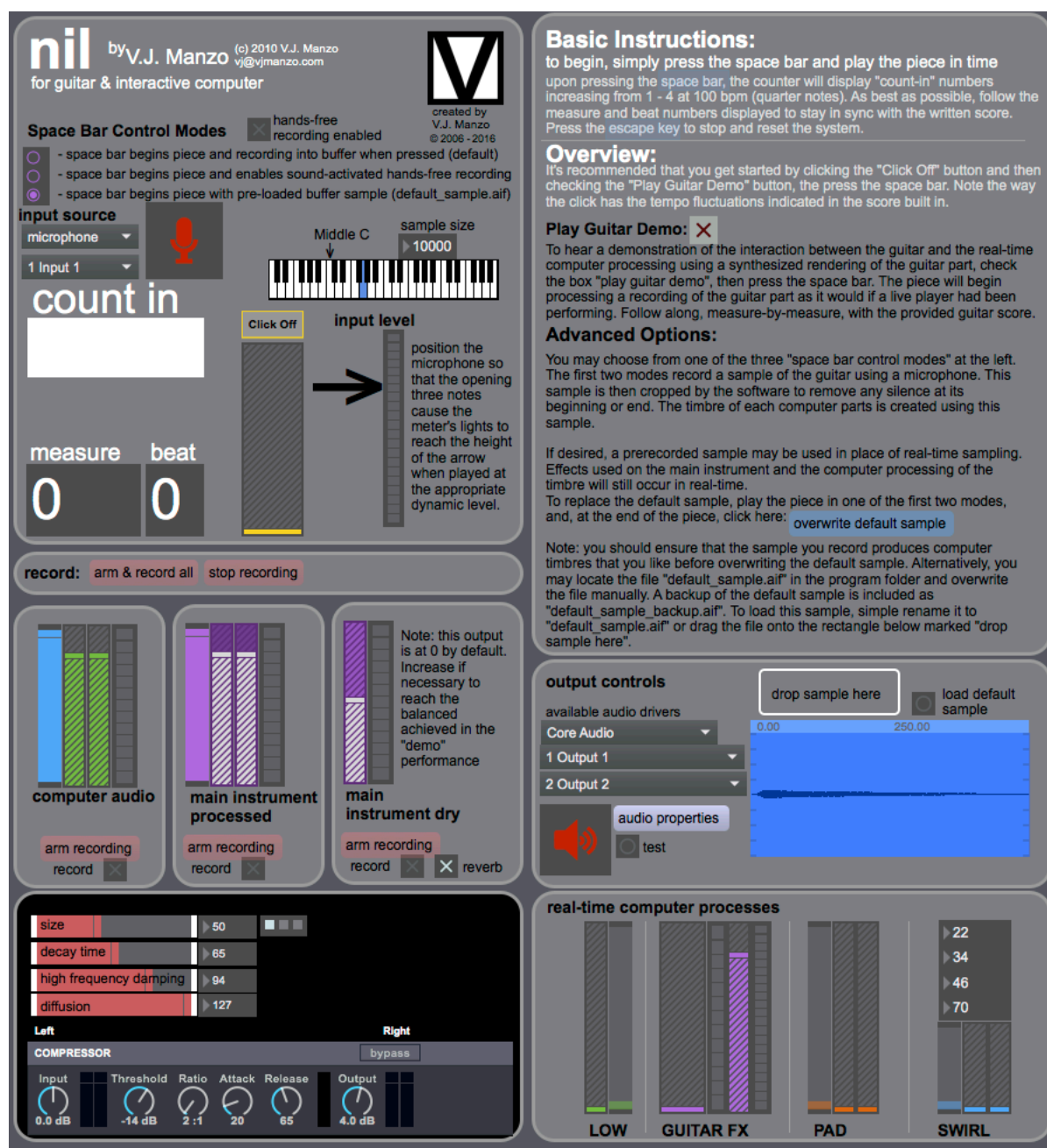
nil is a composition for solo classical guitar and interactive music system. In this piece, the opening note of the guitar performance is recorded by the computer and used to create all of the other computer-generated sounds heard throughout the piece. As the performer continues to perform from the notated score, the computer begins manipulating qualities of the audio sample according to its own score that it follows. All of the computer processing and sound generation for nil occurs in real-time and is driven by the performance of the guitarist. The computer also processes the live input of the performer in a number of ways including various delays.

V.J. Manzo  
10-01-10

Duration: 5' 50"

## About the Composer

V.J. Manzo is a composer and guitarist with research interests in theory and composition, artificial intelligence, interactive music systems, and music learning. His interactive music systems and other software systems/algorithms are freely available for download from his website [www.vjmanzo.com](http://www.vjmanzo.com).



screenshot of nil software

**Setup:** position a microphone in front of the guitarist, connect the microphone to a computer, open the nil software, and ensure that the audio properties of the software are addressing the appropriate input and output channels.

**Performance:** To begin a performance, simply press the space bar.

Upon pressing the space bar, the counter will display "count-in" numbers increasing from 1 - 4 at 100 bpm (quarter notes). As best as possible, follow the measure and beat numbers displayed to stay in sync with the written score. Press the escape key to stop and reset the system.

# nil

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V.J. Manzo

Guitar

$\text{♩} = 100$  (2)

*mf* *ff* *p* *f*

*slight accel. through triplet*

8 *mf* *ponticello* *soltasto* VII (3) (3)

15 (4) VI (4) III

22 *let notes ring out* VII V VII V II VI X III *p* *pp* *p*

29 VI II VI X VII IV III VII *f*

36 III II IV VIII X VIII *ff* *ponticello* *soltasto*

43 XI XV X XV VIII VI *ponticello*

48 *relax tempo* *let notes ring out* I *f* *mf* *artificial harmonic w/ r.h. at XV*

55 *accel.* *a tempo* *rit.* *mf* *f* *subito p*

63 III (4) VIII *a tempo* *pp* *ff* *soltasto*

The musical score is written for guitar in 3/4 time. It begins with a tempo of 100 beats per minute and a circled '2' above the staff. The first system (measures 1-7) features a melodic line starting with a circled '2' above the first measure. Dynamics range from mezzo-forte (mf) to fortissimo (ff), with a dynamic shift to piano (p) and then forte (f) in the second system. A 'slight accel. through triplet' instruction is placed above the first system. The second system (measures 8-14) includes a circled '3' above a triplet in measure 8 and another circled '3' above a triplet in measure 14. Performance instructions include 'ponticello' and 'soltasto'. The third system (measures 15-21) features a circled '4' above a chord in measure 15 and another circled '4' below a chord in measure 16. The fourth system (measures 22-28) includes the instruction 'let notes ring out' above measure 22 and various dynamics (p, pp, p). The fifth system (measures 29-35) includes a circled '4' above a chord in measure 29 and a circled '4' below a chord in measure 35. The sixth system (measures 36-42) includes a circled '4' above a chord in measure 36 and a circled '4' below a chord in measure 42. The seventh system (measures 43-47) includes a circled '4' above a chord in measure 43 and a circled '4' below a chord in measure 47. The eighth system (measures 48-54) includes the instruction 'relax tempo' above measure 48 and 'let notes ring out' above measure 50. The ninth system (measures 55-62) includes 'accel.' above measure 55, 'a tempo' above measure 60, and 'rit.' above measure 62. The tenth system (measures 63-69) includes a circled '4' above a chord in measure 63 and a circled '4' below a chord in measure 68. Performance instructions include 'ponticello', 'soltasto', and 'subito p'.

70 *ponticello* *soltasto* VI III VII IX *ff* *fff*

76 *strum all strings between 5 and 2* *fff*

83 *p* artificial harmonic w/r.h. *pp*

90 *p* *mf*  $\text{♩} = 40$  relax tempo  $\text{♩} = 50$

97 *mf* *f*

103 *pp*

109 *f*

112 *p* *p*

117 *pp* *ppp*