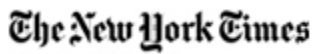



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Friday, May 16, 2008

# Arts

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## Review/Music; Cycle With Origins in India

By BERNARD HOLLAND  
Published: December 17, 1993

On Saturday evening at La Mama Galleria in the East Village, Elodie Lauten presented her "Gaia Cycle." The circle is the music's operative design. For just as the traditional cycle of fifths once circumnavigated the world of sharps and flats, Ms. Lauten has presented a cycle of 12 keys whose fundamental origin is the tonic note of Indian music (our low C-sharp at 136 cycles per second, not the concert hall's A = 440). The scales moreover are not major or minor but mutations of European and Asian modes.

Creating synthesized sound out of an electronic keyboard, "The Gaia Cycle" offers the symmetry of 12 five-minute sections. Layers are placed atop percussion lines, and Ms. Lauten's keyboard playing noodles and decorates gracefully. Although repetition is a major engine of this music -- bringing with it a peaceful sense of stasis -- every section has its distinctive timbre, movement and emotional quality. "The Gaia Cycle" seems less interested in creating order than in finding order in natural processes. There is a certain serenity in this kind of acceptance. BERNARD HOLLAND

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