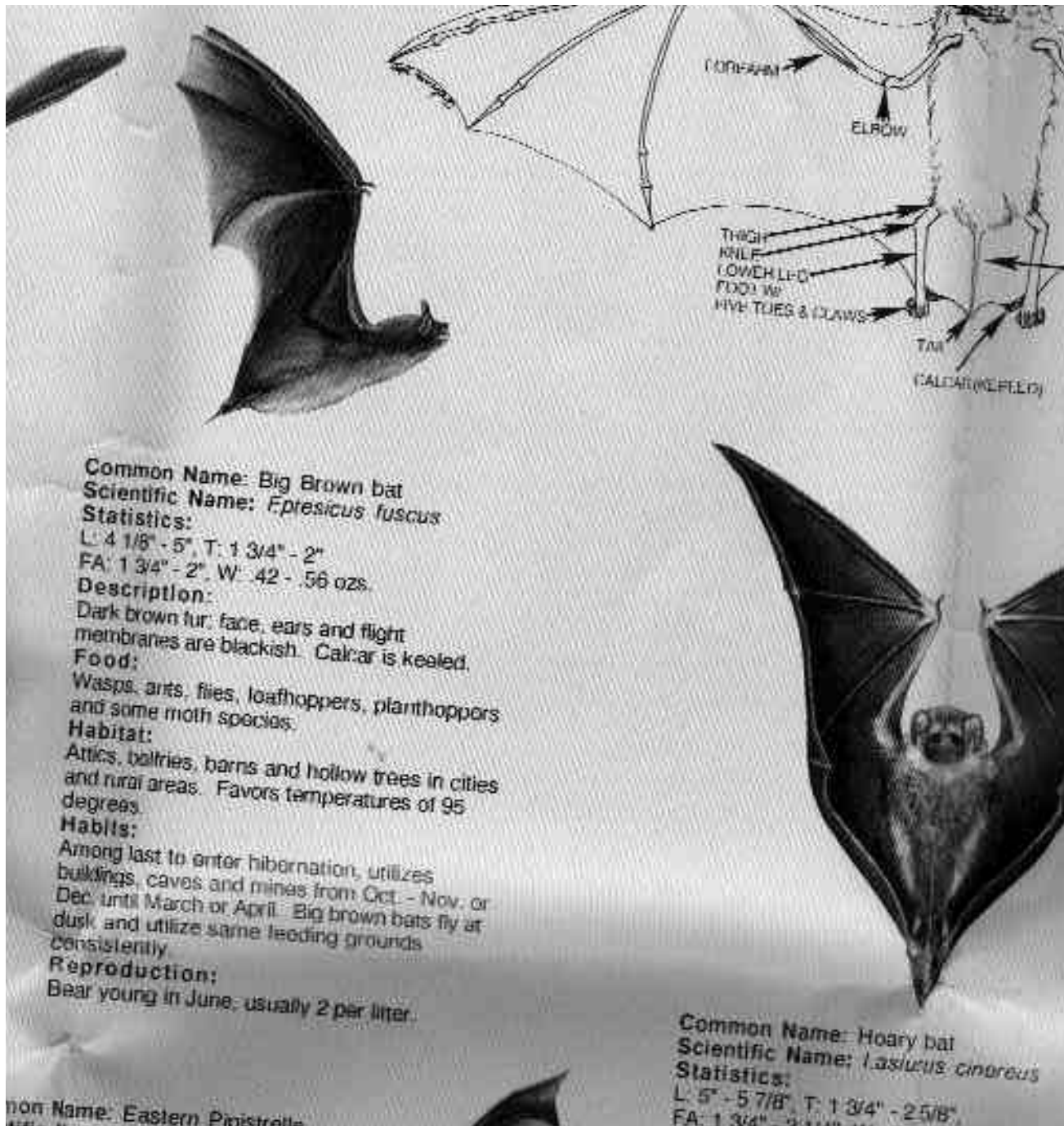


WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A BAT?



– Question posed by Cartesian linguist Thomas Nagel. Reflected by Erik Satie:

"We cannot doubt that animals both love and practice music. That is evident. But it seems their musical system is different from ours..."

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A BAT?

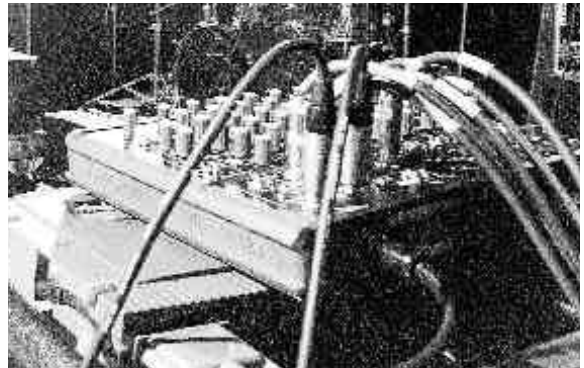
Performer/composers Kitty Brazelton and Dafna Naphtali collaborate on a montage of extremes: textures hard/soft, noises white/red, harmony rooted/disembodied, silence.

Both women sing from startling 4-octave ranges, Brazelton having honed her edge in rock bands since 1969 and currently leading Dadadah (Village Voice: "Wild-woman vocalist...with a wailing intensity in all her genres"), Naphtali vocalizing in improv bands as well as classical recitals and new music ensembles.

Both women play electric guitar: Naphtali has toted hers from coast-to-coast, purveying jazz, folk, disco, whatever the gig required, while Brazelton makes unheard-of sounds on a bass guitar, with punk pick, Soviet-made fuzz box, never having played one (though she's written concertos for the instrument) before.

Both women compose hard-core computer music: Naphtali, (consultant/teacher at Artist in Residence programs at Harvestworks and Engine 27 and former Chief Engineer of NYU's Music Technology program) conducts live interactive radical ambience processing using her custom Max/MSP programs, while Brazelton (D.M.A. Columbia University, 1994; now composer/professor, Bennington College) creates digital soundtracks and samples from natural sound sources using old-time software-synthesis at Columbia's Computer Music lab or written-from-scratch CSound code at home on her desktop, unwilling to settle for current off-the-rack plug-in sound.

All this is woven, spliced, patched, threaded, then drummed together by BAT's third member: Danny Tunick, percussionist extraordinaire, whose credits span alterna-rock and contemporary classical realms. He's a recorded contributor to bands Barbez, Guv'ner, Camp and Mad Scene, as well as the Princeton Composer's Ensemble, Common Sense Composer's Ensemble and the Bang on a Can Festival's Spit Orchestra.



While Naphtali, Brazelton and Tunick alchemize in plain view, sound artist Paul Geluso finalizes this strange brew from the mixing board. And WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A BAT? is a whole new thing.

What is noise to the old order is harmony to the new... – Jacques Attali

"Please ask me if you like it." – Gertrude Stein