# Tributaries: A Phenomenological Pilot Study of Virtual Reality Musicking with Autistic Children

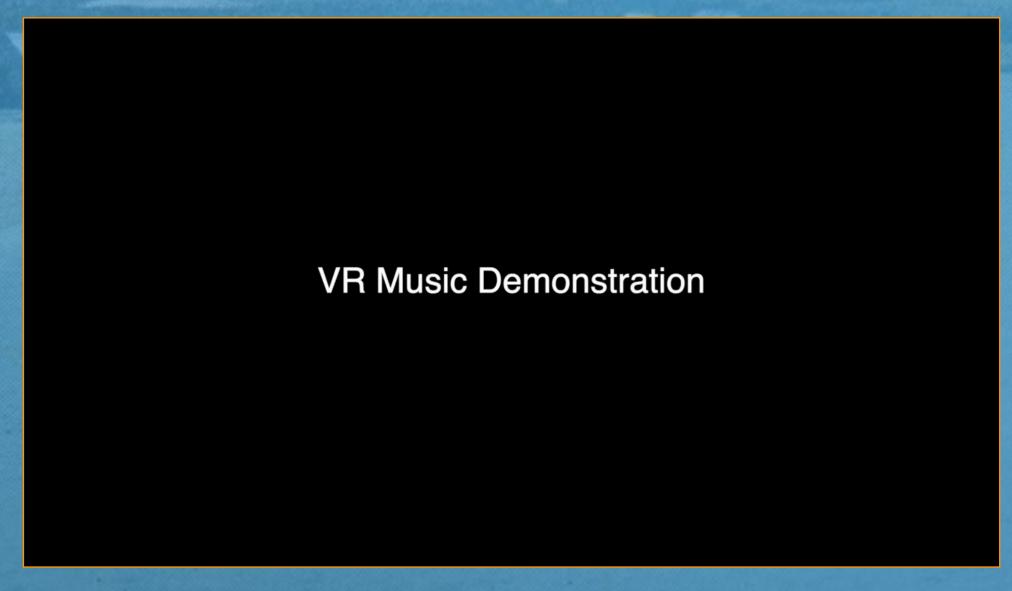


### **Context & Framework**

- Tributaries explores how autistic children experience musicking in virtual reality.
- Grounded in community music and phenomenology, the project views VR as a site for creativity and connection.
- Anchored in Christopher Small's concept of musicking — music as social action and meaning-making.



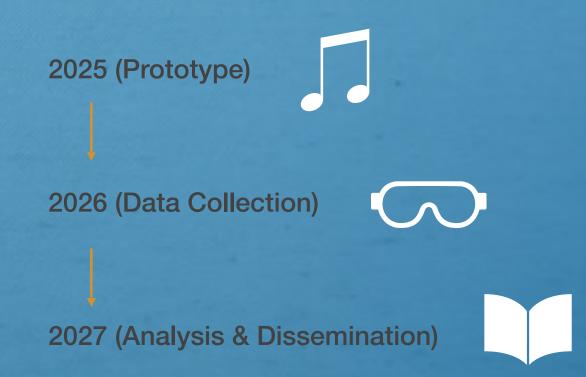
## **Embodied Musicking in Virtual Reality Content:**



Excerpt from Virtuoso (2025): Demonstrating embodied music creation in VR. Subtext: Tributaries builds on this approach by integrating natural, place-based environments from Nova Scotia's landscapes, developed in Unity and Xcode for Vision Pro and Galaxy XR.

## Pilot Study & Methods

- Pilot: 2–3 child participants; main study:
  10–15 (Nova Scotia & Ontario).
- Sessions: 20–30 min, parent present.
- Data: observation, headset/room video, short interviews with children and parents.
- Analysis: hermeneutic phenomenology + NVivo coding.



#### **Practice**

Expands community music into immersive environments.

#### Research

Illuminates embodiment, creativity, and wellbeing in digital spaces.

#### Theory

Integrates musicking and phenomenology to advance equity and human flourishing.

"Listening becomes movement; movement becomes belonging."

**Contact & Acknowledgments** 

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