

Music in Code

Electric Orchestrion

RICHARD (V/O):

This instrument, called an orchestrion, was built for the Nickelodeon Collection by Paul Camps in 1984. Not only are all the instruments operated by instructions on the paper roll but so are the lighting effects and the scenery. When Paul started work there were no instruction manuals on how to build the orchestrion just a pile of bits and a stack of paper rolls. So Paul, together with Graham Whitehead founder of the Nickelodeon Collection, set about reverse engineering the instrument, even adding in moving pictures. But just like the robot organ all the amazing effects as well as the music are still operated by the instructions contained on a single paper roll.

CAPTION:

Electric Orchestrion Paul Camps UK 1983/4