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## CELLF

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In a laboratory in Western Australia, the line between science fiction and reality has been made slightly more blurry with the world's first neural synthesiser.

Autonomously controlled by organic matter, CellF (pronounced "Self") has a brain made from biological neural networks grown in a Petri dish, while its body is composed of various analogue synths. It works by feeding sound into the machine's brain as electrical impulses, which CellF then interprets through the synths.

"CellF represents a radical new way to think about what a musical instrument can be and how music could be made," says Los Angeles-born, Perth-based artist and researcher Guy Ben-Ary, who heads up the group of creatives and scientists behind the project and who donated his own cells to make the instrument's brain.

While we shouldn't be expecting a debut album anytime soon, what does Ben-Ary think the future holds for CellF? A new wave of living cybernetic musicians perhaps?

"Those neural networks are responsive, but I don't think we could talk about learning yet," he says. "I hope that CellF will learn one day, but I think we are still far from that."  
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