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LightWave: Visualizing the Wind

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LightWave consists of several wooden stands each supporting a frosted white glass tube. Each tube houses three LED lights, a microphone, wiring, and a small, coded breadboard. When the microphone registers a sound, it triggers all three lights to turn on instantly then turn off in a delayed three second sequence, creating a cascading effect. Each stand operates independently and may or may not register any given sound or vary in timing. The piece is interactive, validating the viewer's presence by acknowledging through light.

The curious thing about this piece, was when I took it to a sound art festival. *LightWave* was installed outdoors as were most other works. The event happens at night, the grounds being on a hilltop overlooking the water. In typical fashion for this terrain, it was very breezy (uncomfortably so) as the sun goes down. I set up my sculpture only to think it was broken, because the glowing lights were constant. When the sun set, and the dark of the evening settled, the wind was much quieter, fluttering occasionally. The piece was installed in a out of the way spot without much foot traffic. But without a viewer present to create sound the sculpture was still activated, validating the presence of the wind.