

3x10 Musical Actions for Three Socially Distanced Performers

Programme Note

Informed by recent discoveries in embodied cognition in Psychology and Neuroscience, according to which sound is perceived through the sensorimotor system as bodily motion, the piece explores the notion of a musical action, in terms of the combination of physical action and sounding result. These actions are scored in different ways, ranging from conventional staff notation, through forms of approximate and graphic notation to text scores, thereby examining the nature of notation as an instruction for action, rather than a codification of sound. There is no overall score, but instead the performers play from automated Powerpoint presentations, and the succession and simultaneous combination of actions is left to the discretion of the performers or to chance. The result is a game-like event that is intended to feature different relations and synchronicities and asynchronicities between bodily movement and sounds, playing with the audience's embodied responses.