

Track 3

Márton Illés Scene polidimensionalis X "Vonalterek" (2005)

Márton Illés was born in Budapest in 1975 and pursued a dual career as a pianist and composer. His education took him from Győr to Basel. He studied composition from 1997 with Detlev Müller-Siemens and from 2001 with Wolfgang Rihm at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik Karlsruhe, where he has been teaching music theory himself since 2005. Of the many awards he has received, the most important is the Ernst von Siemens Music Prize for Composers, which he received in 2008. In addition to his latest, sensational chamber opera "Die weiße Fürstin" ("The White Princess"), Illés has devoted himself primarily to ensemble and chamber music. This score is the tenth work that he wrote for his own chamber ensemble "Scene polidimensionalis" in 2005. In this series of works, he has composed for a wide variety of ensembles, but has largely retained his basic compositional idea of creating "lines".

In Scene polidimensionalis X "Vonalterek" (Vonalterek = line spaces), three lines initially run side by side in a very dense semiquaver motion and small-step tone sequence, becoming expansive arcs, but also coming to joint pauses for breath before they break off at an extreme pitch and only a soft tremolo sound of a piano string, rubbed with a fingernail, remains. The second scene contrasts with the energetic beginning with dry, metallic repetitions of notes from the viola and piano and notes with a high air content from the clarinet. In the further course of the piece, a four-note field develops into something individual after joint actions, cluster-like chords lead the piano out of one-dimensionality. Irregular repetitions of notes by the clarinet in the densest staccato, to be played at the fastest possible tempo, initially form a single line into which the viola and piano then join at a more moderate tempo. After a build-up, the music breaks off to become an extended, tense unison of viola and clarinet in the final section, to which the piano adds a dense sound surface that rises up into the treble and solidifies into a dry sound.

Illés draws clear contours throughout; the individual timbre of the instruments and their extended sound possibilities are not the focus of this score. For example, the use of special playing techniques in the piano part is mainly limited to strings to be damped inside the instrument. The viola is required to play a special kind of pizzicato, while the clarinet part is content with flutter-tongue effects and slap-tonguing.

Scene polidimensionalis X "Vonalterek" is highly virtuosic and expressive music with a duration of more than ten minutes, which expands the repertoire for the instrumentation of viola, clarinet and piano established by Mozart in his "Kegelstatt Trio" with an expressive composition for a professional ensemble, the rehearsal of which is not hindered by any technical obstacles thanks to the very good legibility and provision of the individual part sheets with cue notes.

(Heribert Haase, <https://dasorchester.de/artikel/scene-polidimensionalis-x-vonalterek>)

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