

BIOGRAPHY

Rudiger Meyer, born in 1968 in Johannesburg, South Africa, studied at the University of the Witwatersrand for the degree of Bachelor of Music (specializing in composition) and undertook further musicological studies at the same university with a doctoral thesis on *Change and Continuity in the Works of Morton Feldman*. He furthered his studies with Younghee Pagh-Paan at the Hochschule für Kunst, Bremen on a DAAD scholarship and Diderik Wagenaar, Gilius van Bergeijk and Clarence Barlow at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague. He has been living and working in Copenhagen, Denmark since 2004. Besides composing for new music ensembles and soloists he has also created soundscapes, videos, installations and electroacoustic works which reflect his interest in the border area between traditional concert music and recent developments within the fields of sound-art and new media. He has also worked with dance and created a number of performances with the Danish choreographer Rosa Isaldur.

Sympathetic Vibrations. I remember a cello lesson I had as a child in which I was particularly fascinated with how a string on the cello would vibrate seemingly all by itself, when in tune with the same note played on another cello. Later I found out that there was a term for this acoustic phenomenon - sympathetic vibration. **Space & Electronics.** At the time I was also more interested in building electronic oscillators than practising my cello scales. I was particularly fascinated with the way in which different objects in the room could be made to vibrate as I tuned the oscillator to different frequencies. **Records & Radio.** My parents owned a *Deutsche Gramophone* recording of Beethoven's fifth piano concerto which I loved to listen to while constructing my electronic circuits. Later I was given an old radio by an aunt and the whole world of popular music flowed in through its loudspeaker and shook up my room. I gave up the dream of building my own synthesizer, bought one and started making music with it...

Place. Since then I have travelled much and lived in many different countries and environment and language have come fill much of my attention. Much of my music has grown out of a process of transcription and transformation of things I find in the world around me.

Environment & Language. I have constructed pieces purely from recorded sound, combined those sounds with "classical" instruments or found ways of translating everyday environmental sounds into instrumental counterparts. The rhythm and melodies of language have also become an important point of departure for creating instrumental music. I am interested in how speech both reflects and shapes the way we perceive the world around us.

Body. But even though music might be closely related to the forms and structures of words and language, it all comes down to vibrations - the ways in which bodies vibrate and are affected by vibrations - the two celli and their sympathetically vibrating strings.

Rudiger Meyer - EDUCATION

1997 - 2000: Studied composition, mainly with Diderik Wagenaar and Clarence Barlow, as well as with Gilius van Bergijk, Martijn Padding and Richard Barrett, at the Royal Conservatory, Den Haag

1998: Nieuw Ensemble Composer's Workshop, Amsterdam

International Composers Meeting, Apeldoorn, the Netherlands

1995 - 1997: Studied composition with Younghy Pagh-Pahn at the Hochschule für Kunste, Bremen on a scholarship from the DAAD

1996 - Master classes with Klaus Huber on a scholarship from the Hochschule für Künste Bremen

1996: Doctorate - thesis *Change and Continuity in the Works of Morton Feldman*, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

1996: Darmstadt Ferienkurze für Neue Musik on a scholarship from the DAAD

1994: Darmstadt Ferienkurze für Neue Muziek

1992 - 1994: Studied Musicology at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

1987 - 1991: Bachelor of Music (composition) at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Contact details:

Address: Hothers Plads 27, 5 t.h, DK-2200 Copenhagen N, Denmark

Telephone: +45 27 57 23 18

E-mail: contact@rudigermeyer.com

website: www.rudigermeyer.com