

Open Systems in Dialogue

OPEN SYSTEMS 2005

Festival for avant-garde music, performance and sound art
17 - 20 November 2005 · Bochum | Dortmund | Essen | Herne

New approaches, new goals, extension of the artistic space:

From 17 – 20 November 2005 interdisciplinary integration of musical encounters will set the tone in the German cities Bochum, Dortmund, Essen and Herne. OPEN SYSTEMS, the festival for avant-garde music, performance and sound art in Germany's Ruhr-area, promotes encounters between artists from different fields with the aim of developing and realizing ideas in a creative environment. Amongst the highlights of the fifteen concerts are performances by ARTO LINDSAY, the ARDITTI QUARTET, the pioneers of net music THE HUB, Tortoise guitarist JEFF PARKER, as well as world premières of works by the blind composer MOONDOG. Dance performances, video installations, lectures, the club lounge and a school project round off the programme.

OPEN SYSTEMS stands for stylistic enrichment as well as exciting musical encounters. Collaboration with NOVEMBER MUSIC, the Belgian-Dutch festival for currently happening music, which contributes to five of the concerts on the programme, the Luxemburg Society for Contemporary Music (LGNM) and the WDR Studio Acoustic Art will intensify international networking of artists.

The OPEN SYSTEMS festival acts as an artistic laboratory, as a platform for new ideas and approaches: OPEN SYSTEMS – the name refers to systems which interact with others. “Whether acoustic or electronic, improvised or composed, classical or popular, Western or non-European – the festival shows us music which is thriving and very now, and presents it using dialogue and contrast. OPEN SYSTEMS offers the well known, the lesser known and always at the highest level,” says OPEN SYSTEMS artistic director Karl-Heinz Blomann.

Here are some of the highlights of OPEN SYSTEMS – the complete programme can be found on the following pages.

EUROPEAN COMPOSERS

Opening concert of OPEN SYSTEMS at the Bochum Schauspielhaus featuring the ARDITTI QUARTET
Thursday, 17 November – Bochum, Schauspielhaus 19:00 hrs

“I've given up groping for fresh superlatives to describe the Arditti's music-making. They are way beyond praise” the Daily Telegraph writes about the string quartet. Six world premières and one German première are on the programme on 17 November, when the ARDITTI QUARTET and the LUXEMBOURG SINFONIETTA give the opening performance of OPEN SYSTEMS. The string quartet has built an outstanding reputation the world over for its vibrant and differentiated interpretations of contemporary compositions and those of the 20th century. Since its foundation in 1974, hundreds of string quartets have been written for the ensemble and have secured the ARDITTI its place in music history. The LUXEMBOURG SINFONIETTA has above all become known for its premières of contemporary music since it was founded in 1999 and will be bringing eleven musicians to Bochum.

PIONEERS OF NETWORKING - ENSEMBLE BRACELLI meets MOONDOG

Friday, 18 November – Dortmund, Domicil 19:30 hrs

The ENSEMBLE BRACELLI will present works by the blind American composer Louis Thomas Hardin (1916-1999), alias MOONDOG, amongst them four world premières from his estate. In his compositions MOONDOG used musical contrasts between the American Indian and the European Classical tradition to create a highly individual, exciting musical language of his own which oscillated between Jazz, Rock, Pop and contemporary music. BRACELLI was especially founded with MOONDOG's favourite set up of two violas, two cellos, double bass and percussion in mind.

BETWEEN POP AND AVANTGARDE - ZEITKRATZER meets ARTO LINDSAY

Saturday, 19 November – Essen, Philharmonie RWE Pavillon 20:30 hrs

The Berlin ensemble ZEITKRATZER is currently one of the leading formations on the frontier between improvised and composed contemporary music. With its mix of avant-garde, hard rock, noise, “new“ and electronic music, the eleven strong ensemble rides its very own sound wave. ZEITKRATZER is defined by the

individuality of its musicians who have, in the course of their careers, been members of the Berlin Philharmonic, Element of Crime, the Ensemble Modern or Mikis Theodorakis. In their final piece ZEITKRATZER meet the ARTO LINDSAY TRIO, who will then take over. ARTO LINDSAY, songwriter, producer, singer, guitarist, is one of the most versatile artists of the contemporary scene. In the 80s he was part of the Manhattan scene and collaborated, amongst others, with Laurie Anderson, David Byrne, John Zorn, Heiner Müller, Ryuichi Sakamoto and Brian Eno. When he got involved in the Tropicália Movement in the 90s, he still kept up with the electronic music scene, drum-and-bass and underground hip-hop.

IMPROVISED MEETING

Experiments between composition and improvisation

Sunday, 20 November – Herne, Flottmann-Hallen 19:00 hrs

“Sheer chaos on the one hand and a wonderful homage to the blues on the other,” wrote the Südkurier.

American vocal artist and percussionist DAVID MOSS, a seasoned performer at OPEN SYSTEMS, and German guitarist and composer MICHAEL RODACH re-invent the blues. For OPEN SYSTEMS they have created an up-to-date version of this old musical tradition which does justice to the inner conflict of the post-modern world. Afterwards JEFF PARKER, who became known, amongst other things, as the guitarist of the electric post-rock band TORTOISE, meets German duo 48 NORD, who combine live electronics with acoustic instruments.

SCHOOL PROJECT – Saturday, 19 November

Herne, Flottmann-Hallen 15:00 hrs

“City, country, river – new sounds from the Emscher region”

A school project, which takes its name from a popular children’s game in Germany, will take place in four cities of the Ruhr area from June to November 2005. Local composers will develop modern compositions with the young people and will subsequently present them on 19 November in the Flottmann-Hallen in Herne. A special press conference will be held in September.

For further information please visit: www.festival-open-systems.de

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