



**The European Graduate School
EST. 1994**

Seminar with Professor Michael Schmidt (4.5 ECTS credits)
Division of Philosophy, Art and Critical Thought
June Session/June 24–29 2019

Being Music

What is music? What is the relation between sound and tone, construction and expression, fixed and open, listening and making? What has happened to music, to its states and to its meaning in the age of media?

Essential Readings:

- Schmidt, Michael (Ed.): Philosophy of Media Sound

Suggested Readings:

- Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner (Ed.), Audio Culture: Readings in Modern Music
- Dieter Daniels and Sandra Naumann (Ed.), See this Sound. Audiovisuology. Compendium and Essays
- Randall Packer and Ken Jordan (Ed.), Multimedia: From Wagner to Virtual Reality

Module I:

Music in the Media

OUTLINE:

- 1) The invention of sound recording - Musique concrète - Sounds generated electronically
- 2) The Aura of music in the age of media
- 3) Determination and Indeterminacy - The musical process
- 4) Composition and Collage - Toward the rhizome of music

Music and Video Examples:

- 1) Clara Rockmore/Peter Tschaikowsky: Theremin/ "Valse sentimentale"
- 2) Heribert Eimert: "Klangstudie II"
- 3) Karlheinz Stockhausen: "Kontakte"
- 4) Pierre Boulez: "Repons"
- 5) Walter Ruttmann: „Weekend“
- 6) Pierre Schaeffer: "Etude Pathetique"
- 7) Luciano Berio: "Sinfonia"
- 8) Matthew Herbert: "Mahler Symphony X Recomposed"
- 9) Wolfgang Mitterer: "Hallo Mr. Bruckner"
- 10) John Cage: "Roaratorio"
- 11) John Cage: 19 Questions (DVD)
- 12) Glenn Gould: "The Alchemist" (DVD)

Module II:

Visualization of Music

OUTLINE:

- 1) EXCURSUS: Students present their own projects, concepts or ideas
- 2) The Aesthetics of Visual Music.
- 3) The Aesthetics of Film Music
- 4) Visualization of Music between Art and Intermediation

Video Examples:

- 1) Oskar Fischinger: "Ten Films" (DVD)
- 2) Walter Ruttmann: „Symphony of a Great City“ (Die Sinfonie der Großstadt) (DVD)
- 3) Hanns Eisler: "14 ways to describe rain" (14 Arten den Regen zu beschreiben – Film Music Project - DVD)
- 4) Jorge Lopez: „Mountain War Project“ (DVD)
- 5) Christian Marclay: „Video Quartet“ (DVD)
- 6) Zbig Rybczynski: „The Orchestra“ (DVD)
- 7) Johannes Deutsch: "Vision Mahler"/"Resurrection Symphony" (DVD)
- 8) Christian Fennesz & Lillivan: „Mahler Remix“ (DVD)
- 9) Mauricio Kagel: „Ludwig van“ (DVD)

Module III:

Music as a Media

OUTLINE:

- 1) Ethics and aesthetics of music – The musical sublime – Music as an expression of critique
- 2) Difference and Repetition - Music and serenity

Music and Video Examples:

- 1) Richard Wagner: "Tristan" – Vorspiel
- 2) Hector Berlioz: "Symphonie Fantastique"
- 3) Igor Strawinsky: "Petruschka" & "Sacre du printemps"
- 4) Arnold Schönberg: "Überlebender aus Warschau"
- 5) Luigi Nono: "Ricorda cosa ti hanno fatto in Auschwitz"
- 6) Bob Ostertag: „Sooner or Later“
- 7) Public Enemy: "Anti Nigger Machine"
- 8) Wolfgang Mitterer: „Radio Fractal“
- 9) DJ Spooky "Journey "
- 10) Steve Reich Beryl Korot: "Three Tales" / "Dolly – Finale" (DVD)
- 11) Philip Glass: „Looking Glasses“ (DVD)
- 12) John Cage: "Music for Piano 47"
- 13) Pierre Boulez: Structure 1a in: Structures/Premier Livre
- 14) Pierre Boulez: Chapitre I in: Structures/Deuxième Livre
- 15) Steve Reich: "Music for 18 Musicians"
- 16) Pierre Boulez: "Pli selon Pli"
- 17) John Cage: "Concert for Piano and Orchestra"

Schedule Module I (First and Second Day):

- I. (June 24th) Music in the age of media
 - 10:00 – 11:30: Warm up and Introduction. The invention of sound recording and the aura of music - Musique concrète - Sounds generated electronically. Ruttman, Schaeffer, Theremin, Eimert, Stockhausen, Boulez
 - 11:30 – 11:45: Break
 - 11:45 – 13:00: Gould – The Alchemist
- II. (June 25th) Towards the rhizome of music
 - 10:00 – 11:30: Hand out of texts. Benjamin, Cage, Deleuze (= Core Readings). Determination and Indeterminacy - The musical process. Cage „Roaratorio“, Cage „19 Questions“
 - 11:30 – 11:45: Break
 - 11:45 – 13:00: Composition and Collage. Ives, Berio, Herbert, Mitterer

Schedule Module II (Third and Fourth Day):

- I. (June 26th) Students presentation and discussion of texts
 - 10:00 – 11:30: EXCURSUS: Students present their own projects, concepts or ideas
 - 11:30 – 11:45: Break
 - 11:45 – 13:00: Discussion of texts Benjamin, Cage, Deleuze
- II. (June 27th) Visual Music

- 10:00 – 11:30: The Aesthetics of Visual Music (Fischinger, Ruttmann) and the Aesthetics of Film Music (Eisler, Adorno)
- 11:30 – 11:45: Break
- 11:45 – 13:00: Visualization of Music between Art and Intermediation. Lopez, Marclay, Fennesz, Kagel

Schedule Module III (Fifth and Sixth Day):

I. (June 28th) Ethics and aesthetics of music

- 10:00 – 11:30: Introduction and hand out of texts. Schopenhauer, Adorno, Deleuze (= Core Readings) – The musical sublime – Music as an expression of critique. Kant, Nietzsche, Adorno & Haydn, Beethoven, Wagner, Strauss, Berlioz, Schönberg, Lang
- 11:30 – 11:45: Break
- 11:45 – 13:00: Ethics & Aesthetics. Discussion of texts Schopenhauer, Adorno, Deleuze

II. (June 29th) Serene Music and discussion of texts

- 10:00 – 11:30: Music and serenity – Difference and Repetition. Cage, Boulez & Reich - Heidegger, Ingarden, Eco & Deleuze
- 11:30 – 11:45: Break
- 11:45 – 13:00: Music as a Media. Final discussion