

New ways of listening

An approach to music - listening and perception

The Intention

The intention of this lecture is to focus on our largely unused potential of listening to sounds and music. Most people are conscious about how they talk or how they write, they can understand and interpret visual signals from computers, film and TV as no generation before them, but as a whole, are quite ignorant about their habits of listening. Listening to music does not only offer an entertaining activity, it is also a gateway to understanding the world around us and the world within us. But in a time with an overall visual culture, the ability and the consciousness of interpreting auditory signals are unfortunately low among most people.

The most valuable and interesting music, in all genres, consists of a high density of information, this is our point of departure in this presentation. The intention is to show other ways of listening, free the act of listening from its usual habits, even without any precognition. The presentation will try to make the audience use their ears in a new way by giving new concepts of listening to sound, and thereby give access to the richness of fine structures and previous hidden relationships. The challenge for the audience is to be open enough to be able to enter the act of listening with these new concepts, which all are taken from other areas of life.

The Presentation

The first part of the lecture will give a brief introduction to the main concepts;

"Texture", "Timbre", "Layers", "Density" and "Gesture" in music. All concepts will be explained with brief musical samples. The music is taken from different genres, different epochs and different cultures. This is of main importance because many of the basic laws of sound apply to music all around the world and to (mostly) all times.

There will be examples from the music of :

Joseph Haydn

Suede

Frank Zappa

Geörgy Ligeti

Japanese Shokohachi

J.S. Bach

Arnold Schönberg

Franz Schubert

Faiz Ali Faiz

etc.

The second part of the lecture will try to use these concepts on larger spans of music, and at the same time show how geniuses of music like Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Ludwig van Beethoven are able to transform a musical material. The transformation and variation of the musical material, done by Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms and other masters of music shows how the

creative human mind is able to make all possibilities come out of a simple idea. In the meeting with these masters the audience hopefully can understand that music is a vital port into experiencing the mastery of human imagination and creation.

There will be examples from the music of :
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Ludvig van Beethoven
Prince

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