

Concepts of the work

There are three concepts in the creation of Breath Strati;

1) A music flexibly alters itself according to the physicality of participating individuals.

Music in its origin has a close relationship with a human body. It is formed and developed through individual physical characteristics and tendencies. Voice is especially considered as an unique instrument since it is the human body which none of the same exists.

The primal aim of Breath Strati is to create a music that stems naturally from the differences in individual physical uniqueness. Unlike a music set already in scores, it determines its tone and timeline according to the physical nature of participating individuals such as variations in the length of breath. It is not to focus on musical structures or performance techniques but to enjoy the beauty of the emerging resonating sound and the movement of soundscape which gradually alters itself as the performance progresses.

Anyone who has voice and enjoys singing can participate, and this is the most important aspect of Breath Strati. Embracing any kinds of musicians, it emancipates the music expression from the privilege of professionals.

2) Breath Strati - layers of breath - a shifting soundscape of breaths and voices - the natural rhythm of being in the world

Music in its origin is a movement of air such as flow and shift of density in space. Breath Strati is constructed intentionally to produce such air movement by generating a thick layer of breathing sounds and human voices (the overtone). When playing, the layer of sounds are literally formed into air waves and vibrations affecting the colour and the temperature of the space as well as the body and the mind of listeners.

All creatures are in a continual motion of inhalation and exhalation when living and this repetitive movement is the most basic and universal in all living things. Breath Strati focuses on such expanding and contracting movement already familiar to any human beings. To focus on breathing is to become aware of the relationship between body and mind, and by doing so it brings singers to be as a whole, which is the most important element of making the performance.

3) A unique vocal technique for female overtones

The vocal technique employed in Breath Strati is especially devised for producing specific harmony of female overtones. There are three types of overtones based on the mouth shape and movement. These overtones resonate to each other and create a complex soundscape. Although usually overtone technique refers to those for deep male voices, this piece focuses on the falsetto of female singers intending to create an ecstatic, floating sound image similar to the echoe of ringing bells.