

Mesias Maiguashca

About THE SPIRIT-CATCHER and SACATECA'S DANCE (DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE)

'READING CASTAÑEDA' is a cycle of six pieces composed in the last ten years, finished last summer. They all loosely relate to the books of Carlos Castañeda about the praxis of sorcery ('brujería) among the yaqui indians in Mexico. The compositions are in no way settings of any particular text, they are somehow commentaries, music to be heard during the pauses between reading sessions. The pieces are the following, all include live-electronics:

-The Spirit-Catcher for Cello

-The Tonal for KLANGOBJEKTE

-Sacateca's Dance for flute

-The Wings of Perception for string quartett

-El Oro, for flute, cello and speaker

-The Nagual for KLANGOBJEKTE and a computerised SOUND-OBJECT GENERATOR.

Technically all of the pieces relate to metall sounds, amplified by contact-microphones as done in the KLANGOBJEKT, an instrument designed by Andrea Atlanti and myself around 1983. The analysis of these sounds led me to the design of a computer instrument which profits of that information, without in any way wanting to simulate the original sounds.

The computer instrument, baptized as SOUND-OBJECT GENERATOR, consists of 2 filter-banks of 32 (or 16) units each. The first bank filters white noise, creating thus a 'noisy spectrum', with frequencies that can be given at the input as a list. This 'noisy-spectrum' is refiltered by the second bank, where each of the filters has dynamic control of the central frequencies, of the q-factor and of the amplitude of the output. The SOUND-OBJECT GENERATOR has been implemented in many environments. The first version was written on the CHANT-Synthesizer, thereafter in CMusic, Common Lisp Music and in the ISPW Ircam-Synthesizer.

'The Spirit Catcher' and 'Sacateca's Dance' form part of the cycle. (This last piece was composed under the name of 'Die Zauberflöte'. When played as part of the cycle it takes the name 'Sacateca's Dance').

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