

FREMDKÖRPER #3 (MIT MICHAEL JACKSON) **for ensemble and sampler**

Program Notes

Silbentrennung:

Fremd-kör-per, Plural: Fremd-kör-per

Bedeutungen:

[1] ein Teil, der nicht Bestandteil eines Ganzen ist (der normalerweise nicht dazu gehört)

Herkunft:

zusammengesetzt aus fremd und Körper (im Sinne von Ding)

Synonyme:

[1] Medizin: Corpus alienum

Beispiele:

[1] Bei dem Unfall sind kleine Fremdkörper in die Wunde eingedrungen, die nun chirurgisch entfernt werden müssen.

[1] Der Körper könnte die neue Niere als Fremdkörper betrachten und abstoßen.

[1] Auf dem Röntgenbild werden die metallischen Fremdkörper gut zu sehen sein.

"Am häufigsten dringen **Fremdkörper** in das Gewebe durch Wunden ein. Sind sie keimfrei, so können sie einheilen und werden vom Körper in einer bindegewebigen Schale abgekapselt. Sind sie dagegen mit körperfesindlichen Substanzen oder Keimen behaftet, so werden sie durch Eitern ausgestoßen oder müssen gar operativ entfernt werden. Dazu wird in den meisten Fällen die sogenannte Fremdkörperzange verwendet."

<http://de.wiktionary.org/wiki/Fremdk%C3%B6rper> - 4th August 2010

Michael Joseph Jackson (August 29, 1958 – June 25, 2009) was an American recording artist, singer-songwriter, and philanthropist. Referred to as the King of Pop, Jackson is recognized as the most successful entertainer of all time by Guinness World Records. His contribution to music, dance and fashion, along with a much-publicized personal life, made him a global figure in popular culture for over four decades.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Jackson - 31st October 2010

Starting in the mid-1980s it became clear that Jackson's appearance was changing dramatically. His skin tone became lighter, his nose and facial shape changed, and he lost weight. The lighter skin tone was initially caused by vitiligo and lupus — with which Jackson was diagnosed in 1986—(...). Surgeons speculated he also had a rhinoplasty, a forehead lift, cheekbone surgery, and altered his lips. Those close to the singer say that, by 1990, he had undergone around ten procedures.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Jackson%27s_health_and_appearance - 31st October 2010

"He had multiple surgeries," says Dr. Wallace Goodstein, who worked beside Jackson's surgeon in the 1990s. "He came in approximately every two months. It was about 10 to 12 surgeries in two years, while I was there."

As for the specifics, says Goodstein, Jackson "had multiple nose jobs, cheek implants and he had a cleft put in his chin. He had eyelid surgery ... You name it he had it."

<http://www.listown.com/group/history-of-michael-jackson-s-plastic-surgery-5294> - 31st October 2010

The expanding "Fremdkörper"-series, which until now consists of three compositions for differently sized ensembles plus live-electronics, focuses on how technology influences human existence. In these pieces neither the technology nor the human body is seen as the "fremdkörper", but they are seen as "fremdkörper" *in relation to each other*. This, however doesn't mean that they cannot coexist, re-enforce or extend each other. According to scientists we will reach the point of "singularity" somewhere between 2030 and 2040. At that moment it won't be possible anymore to make a distinction between "body" and (technological) "extension". These compositions investigate these relationships on a musical level.

A year before starting to write "Fremdkörper #3 (mit Michael Jackson)" Michael Jackson, The King of Pop, deceased. His music and video-clips have had a tremendous impact on popular culture, and his personal life was at least as iconic as his music. I still remember the moment that I saw for the very first time, as a teenager, the videoclip of "Thriller". I never saw something comparable before! And I remember that the image I got of him after seeing this videoclip got ever more distorted over the following years when seeing images of the continuous metamorphosis of his physical appearance. When composing this piece, I realized that Michael Jackson was just a perfect illustration of a "fremdkörper", in the original sense of the word. Therefore Fremdkörper #3 became a kind of distorted "in memoriam" for Michael Jackson.

All of the electronic sounds in this composition were generated using home-made soundprocessing techniques on several "intro's" of Michael Jackson songs. That the raw material consists (only) of these intro's, becomes only apparent on some short moments in the piece. On these moments, the electronic sounds become a clear "fremdkörper" within the context of the piece – and for that sake in the context of most "contemporary classical music". Or vice versa: the instrumentally produced sounds become a clear fremdkörper in relation to the electronic sounds. As much as medical sciences have altered Jackson's original appearance, the soundprocesses in this composition change and deteriorate the "soundbody" of the intro's of his songs. Besides this, there is the constant play between the instrumental actions and the electronical sounds, in order to create a continuum of changes in perception: is what you see (or hear) really what you get?

Furthermore, the concept of the "Fremdkörper" is on another level very present in and central to most of my compositions, in the sense that I continuously insert strange objects/ fremdkörper –mainly everyday objects, like aluminium pizza-dishes, clothing pegs, ...- in the instruments to alter the way they are being played and hence the way that they are perceived.

Stefan Prins – 19th November 2010.

www.stefanprins.be