

Stefan Prins

PIANO HERO (2011-2017)

An immersive cycle for one pianist, midi-keyboard, grand piano, live-electronics and live-video.

Piano Hero #1 (2011) – voor midi-keyboard, live-electronics en live-video

Piano Hero #2 (2011-2013, rev. 2016) – voor piano, midi-keyboard, live-electronics en live-video

Piano Hero #3 (2016) – voor piano en live-electronics

Piano Hero #4 (2016-2017) – voor piano, midi-keyboard, live-electronics en live-video

Stéphane Ginsburgh (Piano & keyboard)

Florian Bogner (ICST) (programming & sound engineer)

Jan Schacher (ICST) (advisor & additional programming)

Stefan Prins (Electronics & video editing)

Kobe Wens (video recordings)

Frederik Croene (piano frame in videos van Piano Hero #1, 2 en 4)

COPRODUCTION

Muziekcentrum De Bijloke, Ultima Festival Oslo, Internationale

Ferienkurse für neue Musik Darmstadt & Institute for Computer

Music and Sound Technology (ICST) Zürich

PROGRAM TEXT

PIANO HERO is an hour-long cycle of four pieces (2011-2017) for one pianist, playing a keyboard and grand piano, with live-electronics and live-video. It attempts to recontextualize the piano (and the piano recital) and place it firmly into today's contemporary, highly technologized and mediated society, in which we all have avatars, are constantly being surveilled and in which the borders between the real and the virtual have evaporated.

Immersion is the state of consciousness where an immersant's awareness of physical self is diminished or lost by being surrounded in an engrossing total environment; often artificial. This mental state is frequently accompanied with spatial excess, intense focus, a distorted sense of time, and effortless action.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immersion_%28virtual_reality%29 (accessed 29/6/2011)

If something startles the player out of immersion and into reality, out of illusion and into insight, then we have a moment of arrest remarkably similar to the instant when an antibody latches onto a virus. Suddenly, a shift in the system (immunological or ideological) occurs, and nothing remains the same.

J.Blais, J.Ippolito, *At the Edge of Art*, Thames & Hudson, 2006 (p.58)