

etude workshop Bundesoberstufen-Realgymnasium Krems Feb.11,18,25th, 2009



etude is a series of sound works and ideas of which daily object are the primary material and sound source.

The workshop was intended to introduce the ideas of "sound art" and "new music" to music students, age of 14-15, also to work together and make their own works.

It was divided into 3 days, 2 hours each time, including the presentation at the last class.

day 1

Who are you? / What are you interested in?

Prior to the first workshop, I asked students to write down their interests.

The aim was to know them better to work with their personal interests connecting to making sound art.

What sound can you hear in this room?

After introducing few example of my sound works, I made listening exercise in the classroom.

It was very simple; be silent for a while, listen to all the things you hear, and write it down on a paper. After 5-10 minuets, they compare their lists with others.

e.g. "someone is drinking water from the bottle", "sound of writing something with a pencil" "breathing of the person next to me", "sound from the computer and the projector"

What sound can you hear in the school?

I extended the listening exercise outside the classroom to see if we hear something more.

e.g. "foot steps", "practicing piano", "chatting", "car outside"

Do you remember any sound from your room / house / daily life?

I had prepared some short video image to do a blind quiz. I made students only listen to the "recorded sound" from my room at first. They guess what it is, e.g. sound of hair-dryer, closing door, Landry machine, rice dropping, boiling water. This was to give examples of sound in our lives, also, to show an elementary step of how you can capture some interesting sound.

I closed the first class by giving my short performance/presentation, hoping that it would show one way to frame a personal intersts toward sound. Students were assigned to do listening exercise at home.



listening exercise



performance

day 2

First, the students showed some interesting sound they have found at home, which they had captured with their handy phone/video or texts.

e.g.

"sound of scrolling computer mouse", "typing", "father snoring", "postman approaching the door", "wind and air", "rain drops", "neighbors chatting outside", "noise from electric light bulbs", "closing the book", and so on.

And then, we focused on extending the concept of "sound" into "non-audio" category.

Category one - audio is sound

I played a note on piano and asked student if it is was a sound.

The answer is off course YES because they HEARD it (the vibration in the air touched their ears).

Category two - non audio can almost be "sound "

I ran a water from water tap and asked if it was a sound. The answer is off course YES because they HEARD it.

Then I stopped the water and asked again if it was a sound. For sure, "NO" was the answer.

However, I asked if they knew how it sounded, and to IMAGINE it. Then, again, I asked if they can "hear" it.

Some of them said yes, and others said it was just an imagination, not a real sound.

I think you can ALMOST HEAR them through imagination. In my opinion, this is non-audio sound.

I showed my sound work, etude no. 12 in various forms to students and we try to discuss What ART WORK is.

In short, the discussion was to start thinking about how their interests can be framed into an art work.

I asked them to choose one sound to put it in a bottle to frame their interest/sound and present it in the last class.



students telling others about the sound they found at home



etude no. 12 with glass bottle



etude no. 12 "wrapphone"