

Percussion Studies at the Stockhausen Courses

I have had the great pleasure to be involved with the Stockhausen Courses Kuerten since 1999, first as a student, and, beginning in 2005, as faculty member/solo percussionist. These courses are a truly unique experience to all who are involved and represent not only an intensive environment in which to study and absorb the music of Karlheinz Stockhausen, but also a model for the way music should be studied and shared for future generations. It is an extremely informative, inspiring, and supportive environment in which to study this great music.

As the percussion instructor at these courses it is my duty to help carry on the tradition of collaboration between composer and performer begun nearly fifty years ago by Stockhausen and Christoph Caskel. It was during this time, the infancy of contemporary percussion composition, that they began their close collaboration on many of Stockhausen's works using percussion. This tradition continues today with Stockhausen and me. I have worked closely with him on his existing works (ZYKLUS, KONTAKTE, REFRAIN, NASENFLUEGELTANZ, and KOMET) and have been lucky enough to work with him on the world premieres and recordings of MITTWOCH-FORMEL and HIMMELS-TUER and to help establish the performance practice, and tradition of these wonderful works. It is my intent to continue this work with Stockhausen personally, and to work with the participants of the Stockhausen Courses (percussionists and other musicians) in the same intense, yet collaborative manner as Stockhausen; and, in some cases, to help prepare select performers for their work with the maestro during participants' concerts.

I highly recommend any contemporary percussionist interested in Stockhausen's music to attend these courses. In addition to all of the solo percussion works ZYKLUS, NASENFLUEGELTANZ, KOMET, VIBRA-ELUFA, and HIMMELS-TUER, it is also possible to study the works for percussion ensemble (MIKROPHONIE I, MUSIK IM BAUCH, KATHINKA's GESANG, and MITTWOCH-FORMEL). I also work in collaboration with Antonio Pérez Abellán and Benjamin Kobler on many of the chamber works utilizing piano and percussion (SCHLAGTRIO, KONTAKTE, 3X REFRAIN 2000, etc.). Since 2005 I have had a number of students selected to perform on the various participants' concerts during the courses, and have had 3 soloists / groups awarded interpretation prizes by Stockhausen himself.

I invite you to come to the courses, and experience this unique musical event. Obviously, you will have the opportunity to experience a lot of Stockhausen's music, but more than that you will have the chance to meet many other musicians from over 20 different countries, and you will learn a lot about yourself as a musician as well. Feel free to contact me through the Stockhausen Foundation if you have any questions about the percussion class at the annual *Stockhausen Courses Kuerten*.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stuart Gerber