

Kraftmaschine

Instrumentation

- Recorder 1: Baroque Sopranino Recorder in A=440Hz, Baroque Alto Recorder in A=415Hz, Baroque Sopranino Recorder in A=415Hz, Renaissance Soprano Recorder in A=440Hz.
- Recorder 2: Baroque Soprano Recorder in A=440Hz, Baroque Alto Recorder in A=415Hz, Baroque Soprano Recorder in A=415Hz, Renaissance Soprano Recorder in A=440Hz.
- Recorder 3: Baroque Tenor Recorder in A=440Hz, Baroque Alto Recorder in A=415Hz, Baroque Soprano Recorder in A=415Hz, Renaissance Soprano Recorder in A=440Hz, Baroque Soprano Recorder in A=415Hz.
- Recorder 4: Baroque Sub-Bass Recorder in A=440Hz, Baroque Voice Flute (tenor in D) in A=415Hz, Kirchenratschen (ratchet), Baroque Soprano Recorder in A=415Hz, Baroque Alto Recorder in A=440Hz, Baroque Alto Recorder in A=415Hz.
- Percussion 1: Marimba, Basque Tambourine, Snare Drum, Güiro.
- Percussion 2: Litophone; Glockenspiel, Darabukka, Gran Cassa, Suspended Cymbal.
- Percussion 3: Crash Cymbals, Snare Drum, Tom-toms (high-medium-low), Sake Pot, Wood Blocks (high-low).

Kraftmaschine, for recorders and percussion.

Duration: 10 minutes.

'Kraftmaschine' was commissioned by the Orff Zentrum and the ADevantgarde Festival in Munich and it was inspired by Carl Orff's approach into building musical structures out of basic rhythmical and melodic patterns. It uses a wide variety of Renaissance, Baroque and modern day recorders, bringing out their subtle differences of timbre. Due to its versatility and directness, this interesting instrumental ensemble (four recorder players & three percussion players) also encouraged me to incorporate elements from Peruvian folk music in four brief episodes that are playfully interrupted by an intrusive ratchet. In the final section, I make use of the aulos technique in which each of the four players is asked to play two recorders simultaneously in an obsessively repetitive –but nevertheless constantly shifting- group of five notes. Since all recorders are tuned at different frequencies, the result is a dense cluster that moves in permanent rhythmic unison.

This piece was first performed in Nürnberg and Munich in June 2005 by Jeremias Schwarzer, Elke Theil, Inge Marg, Monika Lück, recorders; and Hermann Schwander, Radoslaw Szarek and Christopher Beville, percussion and conducted by Jimmy López. 'Kraftmaschine' was awarded a 'Stipendienpreis' during the '2006 Darmstadt Music Course for Contemporary Music' in Germany.

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