

Call for Papers "Ligeti – Space – Interpretation"

Symposium (Staatliches Institut für Musikforschung PK, Berlin / Webex)

14/15 February 2023

In May 2023, the composer György Ligeti would have turned 100. In close temporal and spatial proximity to concerts of his works in the Berlin Philharmonie, the SIM is organising a symposium devoted to two issues of great importance for Ligeti's work: "space" and "interpretation".

Up to now, musicology, largely following Ligeti's theoretical considerations, has dealt primarily with space as imaginary sound space and analytical tonal space, as well as, albeit to a lesser extent, with interpretation (i.e. the production of tones) as the material of composition. So far, it has hardly addressed the performative aspects of the two categories.

Starting from this desideratum, we are asking for contributions on the following topics:

Interpretation

- Ligeti and his interpreters: Who were they and how was his relationship to them?
- Ligeti's performance aesthetics: Ligeti made such a point of accompanying rehearsals of his works and communicating his conception with the performers that one might think he promoted a specific performance aesthetic. What did this consist of, not least in terms of the precarious relationship between textual accuracy and expressivity?
- History of interpretation of Ligeti's works: Many of his works are still widely performed and recorded today. What can we say about the extensive history of the interpretation of Ligeti's works, which now spans many decades?

Space

- In which works and how did Ligeti make compositional use of real spatial arrangements at all? Why did he largely disregard this creative device widely used by his contemporaries?
- What is the role of imaginary sound or tonal spaces, spatially associated formal arrangements as well as historical and geographical spaces for the interpretation and analysis of Ligeti's works?

The symposium is organised by Dr. Simone Hohmaier and Prof. Dr. Heinz von Loesch on behalf of the SIMPK. It will take place at the Musikinstrumenten-Museum Berlin as well as online. Congress languages are German and English. The papers will be published.

We ask for proposals for presentations (25 min.) in the form of an abstract (max. 2000 characters) and a short curriculum vitae (max. 500 characters) by 5 September 2022 at the latest.

Feedback on the selection of papers will be provided by the end of Sept. 2022.

Please send your proposals as a pdf file to hohmaier@sim.spk-berlin.de.