EUROPEAN ACADEMY of Sciences and Arts

EASA
ARTS MEET SCIENCES
COLLOQUIUM
WINTER SEMESTER 2026
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Eva-Maria Houben

Environmental Sounds, Field Recordings, Constellations, Relationships, Performance Situations

Abstract

It's about shifting the emphasis from the structure of a composition to the activity of the players/singers and to the presence of the outer world. We find ourselves in certain situations and expose ourselves to this (often fragile) situation, experiencing a swaying back and forth between activity and letting lose, between control and giving up control. The situation may open for unforeseen events and unpredictable sounds of the outer world.
It's about the presence of people, things and sounds within a shared world of simultaneous events, it's about relationships and events in a specific situation, at a specific location, at a specific time.

SHORT CV

(born 1955) studied Music Education at Folkwang-Musikhochschule Essen and the organ with Gisbert Schneider. Following her exams she taught both German and Music Education at Secondary School. She received her doctorate and postdoctoral lecturing qualification in musicology and was called for lectures at Gerhard-Mercator-Universität Duisburg and Robert-Schumann-Hochschule Düsseldorf. Since 1993 Professor Houben has been lecturing at Dortmund University`s "Institut für Musik und Musikwissenschaft", with both music theory and contemporary music as her focus. Her period of service at Dortmund University concluded with February 28, 2021. Up to now many books were published, concerning contemporary music, contemporary composers and traditional music, listened to with 'new ears".
Eva-Maria Houben has been performing works for the organ for more than 30 years. As she is related to the "wandelweiser-group" of composers, her compositions are published by "edition wandelweiser", Haan. Her list of compositions up to now includes works for the organ, piano, clarinet, trombone, violoncello and other solo instruments, works for voice and piano, for wind and chamber ensembles, for orchestra and for voice and orchestra, for works for choir,

electroacoustic music (www.wandelweiser.de). She publishes on subjects of contemporary music (Steiner, Stuttgart; PFAU, Saarbrücken; Edition Howeg, Zürich; bis-label, Oldenburg; Edition Wandelweiser, Haan; transcript, Bielefeld).