

ALPHABET für Liège

Stockhausen says: Music is vibration and all life is vibration, therefore everything is music. This fascinating postulate allows the conclusion that everything alive is vibration, nerve-wise, electric, magnetic, and since music is also vibration, that music can change life. We are – to a certain degree – an electrical system, and our cells are touched by an acoustical vibration in a way that will – to a certain degree – forever change the one who heard the music. That is what this ALPHABET for Liège shows us, this over-dimensional living primer consisting of twelve acoustical situations, in which sound shapes material and living beings for the benefit of the audience, which is given the opportunity to newly discover the basic terms of the magical powers of music.

In this room, we see Michael Vetter and Atsuko Iwami “making love” with tones. The task is for two recorders to play in very closely adjacent tone frequencies or to sing mouth to mouth in order to produce a phenomenon known as beats. By enlarging or reducing the distance between the frequencies, the music-making lovers produce a series of extremely small sound variations that symbolise the lovers’ dialogue.

Here, the singer Gaby Rodens magnetises food with tones. She has kneaded bread while singing into the dough. The pendulum specialist Jill Purce checks the process with a magnetic pendulum.

The tenor, Wolfgang Fromme is singing ritual tone-formulae (or mantras) that he learned from an Indian master and is using them to try to harmonise his seven body centres, the seven *Chakras*.

This musician has the task of making the sound spectrum of his voice visible in solid material, in thin layers of powder or iron dust that are arranged on loudspeakers.

Ever since mankind has been able to think, earthly beings have tried to take up contact with the hereafter by singing. Dagmar von Biel is praying with tones, from Gregorian chants to Tibetan litanies.

And here is the room of time-beats, where the musical director, Peter Eötvös, is playing the large metre on his gongs, filling the twelve rooms with their vibrations, the whole ALPHABET für Liège.