

Adam McCartney

A way after remains and reflections, 2016

world premiere, commissioned by impuls

In his poem Bogland, Seamus Heaney writes about the influence of the landscape on the pioneers. He compares the Prarie of the Western USA with the Moores in Ireland. A way after remains or reflections is certainly not a long walk into the sunset. / The ground swallows an endless horizon. / Every layer contains immaculate black. / The horizon appears again nonchalant fleeting it cleaves the ground to the ground. Sound is not only individually received as the result of a physical process, but is also in a broader context an interface to abstract experience. Certain musical elements appear to be historical artefacts. In fact they can cause resonances in contemporary ears that to some extent go beyond the borders of temporal and physical experience.



Adam McCartney born in Limerick, 1987. Currently lives in Vienna.

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Adam approaches composition from the point of view that sound is not only the individual received result of a physical process, but also in a broader context an interface to abstract experience. The available material for composition is practically rooted in a direct experience of space and time i.e.: aesthetic experience. The work of the composer is related to the consistency of this experience. Certain musical elements appear to be historical artefacts. In fact they can cause resonances in contemporary ears that go beyond the borders of temporal and physical experience. From the point of view of an individual observer, the term beauty seems semantically fixed and relates to a specific interpretation at a point in time. Considered in the flow of time on a broader scale the term beauty undergoes constant transformation, while some essential attributes are retained on an intuitive level. These essential attributes relate to the apprehension of beauty and show that this is directly related to personal experience. This personal experience is at the root of any given mode of perception. As the consistency or mode of experience itself undergoes constant change so too does the meaning of the term beauty. This essential change emphasizes the fluid nature of personal and collective identity.

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