

# Karlheinz Stockhausen

## *Klavierstück VII*

Jonathan Taylor de Oliveira

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# Biographical Highlights

- ▶ 1928 - Born in Mödrath, near Cologne, Germany.
- ▶ 1947-51 - State Conservatory of Music (piano and music education) and University of Cologne (German philology, philosophy and musicology).
- ▶ 1950 - First compositions.
- ▶ 1953 - Became permanent collaborator for *Studio for Electronic Music* (West German Radio).
- ▶ 1963-68 - Founder and artistic director of *Cologne Courses for New Music*.
- ▶ 1965 - Guest professor at University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.
- ▶ 1966-67 - Guest professor at University of California at Davis.
- ▶ 1998 - First annual *Stockhausen Courses Kuerten*.
- ▶ 2004 - opened *Sonic Arts Research Centre* and honorary doctorate from Queens University, both in Belfast, Ireland

# *Klavierstücke V-VIII* (1954-1955)

- ▶ Second in a six-set super-structure of *klavierstücke* (piano pieces)
  - ▶ series 4-6-1-5-3-2. Total: 6 sets, 21 pieces
  - ▶ Dedicated to David Tudor
  - ▶ Written as the result of studies with Meyer-Eppler
  - ▶ Sonority, time and gesture are predominant aspects

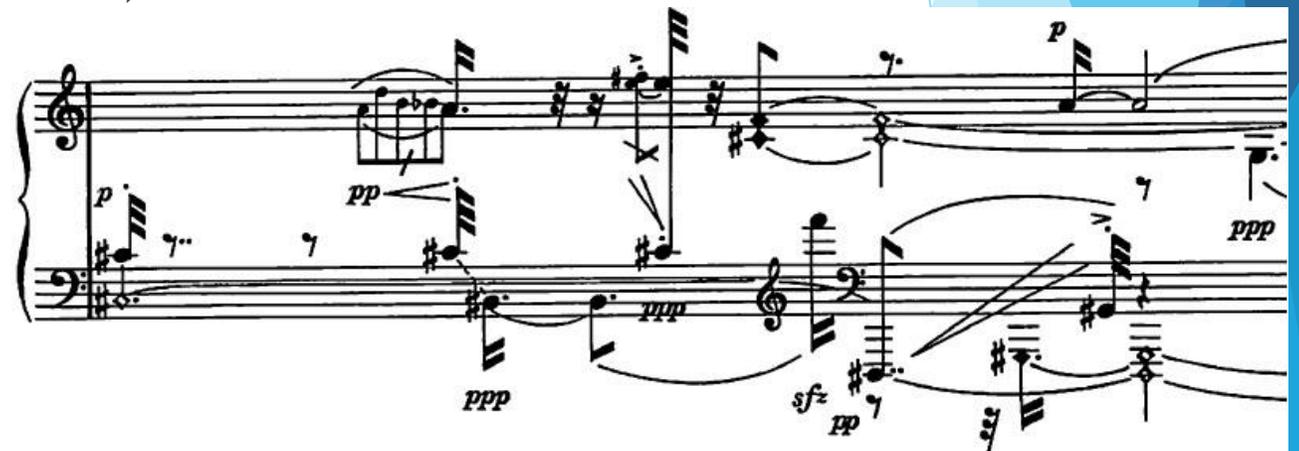
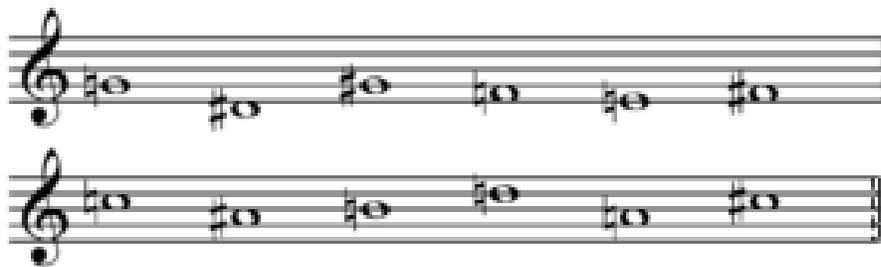
# Klavierstück VII

- ▶ Five sections based on tempo: 40, 63.5, 57, 71, and 50.5 bpm.

- ▶ Scale of pauses

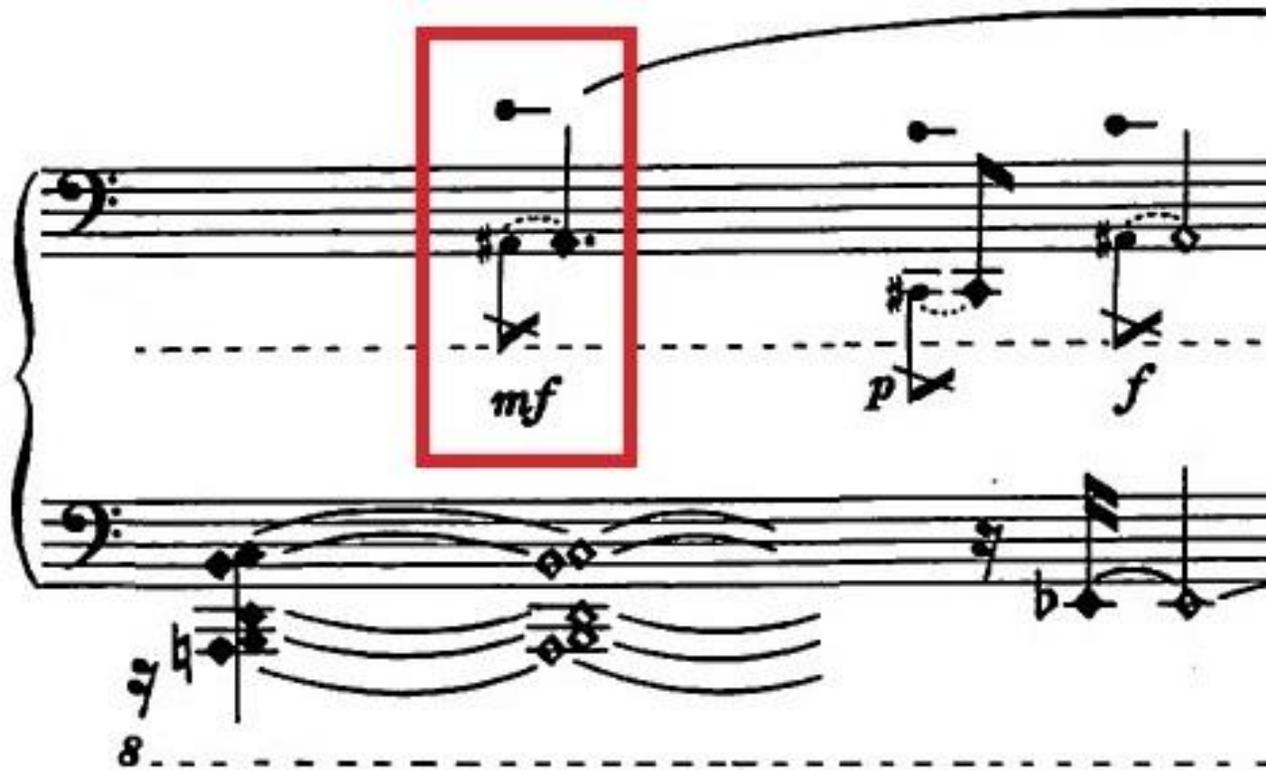
 or  = freely chosen long duration  
 or  = twice as long  
 or  = three times as long, etc.

- ▶ Based on the same tone row as *Gruppen* (1955-57).



# To Notice while Listening...

- ▶ Ample use of resonance
  - ▶ Lozenge-shaped = silently depressed keys - sympathetic vibration



# To Notice while Listening...

- ▶ *Una corda* pedal for tone-color
  - ▶ Contradictory *sfz* with using the *una corda* pedal

Gruppen sehr deutlich, nicht hastig

8

8

8

3.P.

*sfz* *p* *mp* *ff* *sfz*

# To Notice while Listening...

- ▶ Juxtaposition

- ▶ main pitches  
vs.  
gracenotes

- ▶ A slowing down  
shattered by grace notes

*“descending as it were  
from an ultrasonic region  
into audibility.”*

- ▶ Imagery related to  
*Kontakte* and  
*Telemusik*

Gruppen sehr deutlich, nicht hastig

3.P P

Robin Marconie, *The Works of Karlheinz Stockhausen*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1990, p. 74

Karlheinz Stockhausen, *Klavierstück VII*, London: Universal Edition, 1965, p 5

# Let's listen!

▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-vlKi9sroo>

# Fausto Romitelli (1963-2004)

Jonathan Taylor de Oliveira

[jtolive@bgsu.edu](mailto:jtolive@bgsu.edu)

# Biographical Outline

- ▶ 1963 – Born in Gorizia, Italy.
- ▶ 1988 – Graduated in Composition from *Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi*, Milan – Umberto Rotondi.
  - ▶ Advanced courses at *Ademia Chigiana*, Siena and *Scuola Civica*, Milan – Franco Donatoni.
- ▶ 1991 – Paris – IRCAM – 1<sup>st</sup> Cursus Class
  - ▶ L’Itinéraire
  - ▶ Gérard Grisey
  - ▶ Hugues Dufort
  - ▶ Tristan Murail
  - ▶ Michael Lévinas
- ▶ 1993 - 1996 - Collaboration with IRCAM.
- ▶ 2004 - Passed away at age 41 in Milan after battling cancer.



# Stylistic Information

- ▶ Predilection for hybridization
- ▶ Overlapping art music and popular music
  
- ▶ Work ranges from:
  - ▶ Spectral pieces - IRCAM
  - ▶ Include elements of psychedelic rock

# *Nell'alto dei giorini immobili* (1990)

- ▶ Spectral piece
  - ▶ Influence of Grisey and Murail
  - ▶ Harmonies - successive thrusts arising from the root note
    - ▶ Sense of structure and wholeness
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dliCBInIGuc&t=9s>

Pierre Rigaudière, *Parcours de l'œuvre*, at <http://brahms.ircam.fr/composers/composer/2755/#parcours>, Accessed March 27, 2018.

Massimiliano Viel, *Nell'alto dei giorini immobili: une analyse esthétique*, 2013, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xf4J0-O-Vx8>, Accessed April 2, 2018.

# *Cupio Dissolvi* (1996)

- ▶ Convergence of acoustic discoveries
  - ▶ Psychedelic rock
  - ▶ Spectral research
- ▶ Hybridization of two worlds
  - ▶ Larsen Effect (feedback)
    - ▶ Create a downward spiral reminiscent of entropy.
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VPxj3uEiVqg>

# *Trash TV Trance (2002)*

- ▶ Hybridization of “serious music” and rock
- ▶ Unusual element: electric guitar
  - ▶ Clearly distinguishable
  - ▶ Disguised, altered by pedal effects
- ▶ With Score - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXA1XoV81QM>
- ▶ Performance - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NLvaJ-UXrA>

# *Professor Bad Trip (1998-2002)*

- ▶ Exploration of effects of hallucinogens
- ▶ Devised as three lessons
  - ▶ Three different perspectives of the psychotropic experience
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20gECBNfilo&list=RD20gECBNfilo&t=4>

# *An Index of Metals (2003)*

- ▶ Video-opera
  - ▶ Poems by Kenka Lèkovich
  - ▶ Video by Paolo Pachini
  - ▶ A sense of funeral to the piece, brought on by

*“an endless sliding of all melody towards the grave, of all harmony towards its dissolution, of all timbre towards its own outworn noise.”*

- ▶ *An Index of Metals* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4SjjJ-hm1g>
- ▶ Quotation - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UXircX3VdM>

# Other works

Piece	Date	Instruments
Kû	1989	14 performers
La Sabia del Tempo	1991	
Acid Dreams and Spanish Queens	1994	Ensemble
Lost	1997	Vocals and 15 musicians
The Poppy in the Cloud	1999	Choir and ensemble
Blood on the Floor, Painting 1986	2000	Ensemble

Thank You!

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