

VOLLMAYER: KIND OF LAIBACH (EXTENDED)


Imagine what it would be to carve out a piano classic from the 'industrial' monolithic Laibach sound structure. Vollmaier does not tackle this challenge, as one might expect, through preparation or electronic interventions, but by seeking inspiration from the virtuoso pianists Glenn Gould, Vladimir Horowitz and Thelonious Monk as well as in one of his professors (formerly an associate of the Laibach band as well) Aci Bertoncej. He is faithful to the original music by testing the extreme limits of both the performer and instrument. Laibach's linear rigor breaks precisely with industrial precision and physical perseverance, but the final result is, surprisingly, even more monolithic, though an absolutely subtle structure, woven only with the black and white keys of an elegant machine, a concert piano which is for Vollmaier larger than life.

Vollmaier created a 45-50 minutes composition (piano solo) based on the music of Slovenian avant-garde band, Laibach. In 2019 he starts creating a composition based on the motives of some songs ("Smrt za smrt", "Krvava gruda", "Ti, ki izzivaš", "Brat moj", "Resistance is futile"). Vollmaier is bringing the sound of Laibach to the acoustic instrument. The material itself carries an interesting and curious interpretation, full of rich and open sound, as well subtle musical moments.

1.

Solo





After graduating from the Academy of Music in Ljubljana, Vollmaier worked in a genre-diversified variety of settings, extending from chamber music ensembles to alternative bands. He has been associated with the avant-garde music group Laibach since 2007, as a keyboard player as well as an arranger and studio musician. Finding inspiration in the output of the front-runners of Slovenian industrial sound, Sašo's piano solo project includes covers of several Laibach tracks, most notably Smrt za smrt, Krvava gruda, Ti, ki izziyaš and Le privilege des morts. Sašo moves between two worlds, the classical and the industrial, questing for connections between them by synthesizing repetition, minimalism and a broad dynamic range.

In 2005 he meets "Pantheatre" (Paris, FR). This collaboration opened new area and possibilities about the voice work which he followed after as an accompanist for singers, worked in Slovene National Theatre in Maribor - opera department, teaching in different musical institutions and playing with several musicians in different musical formations.

He joined the Slovenian avant-garde music group Laibach in 2007-2013 as a keyboard player. The experience with Laibach was crucial in understanding the elements of the industrial music, curiosity about politics, awareness of oneself and the opportunity to express himself in this particular musical genre.

In 2013 he moved to France for personal and professional development. Vollmaier meets Viviane Gay in Paris, an actress&singer with whom he started to create music-theatre-pieces and developing his presence on the stage as performer trough his voice, movement and music.

The voice work brought him to Malérargues (Centre Artistique International Roy Hart) again where he started to give classes, collaborating with other voice teachers and giving the concerts and performances. In the same year he begins the project called "Generation" as a musical director. This project allowed him to meet the Roy Hart Theatre in terms of the power of the presence, fragility, expression, authenticity, curiosity.

About

Vollmaier teaches musical aspects, encourages the students to invent their own language, working on presence, voice and movement. This structure allows him to define his direction. In the same year he started to collaborate with Susanne Weins, giving the voice/movement workshops in Düsseldorf and creating their own theatre productions (Bewegte Oktaven, Fragile Breath, Melancholia) most of them directed by Sabine Seume. He works as a voice teacher & pianist/accompanist mainly in France, Germany, Italy, Brazil, Switzerland, Slovenia.

2.

Vollmaier's accomplishments include theatre and cartoon scores, choral arrangements, marching orchestras, big bands, playing as a studio musician.

Music



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3.