

Report: James Creed (United Kingdom)

AiR – Artist in Residence Niederösterreich, October 2022

I have thoroughly enjoyed the residency and am very grateful for this period of supported time to focus on my work whilst exploring the area (this was my first time in Lower Austria). In particular, it has been useful to have an extended period where I am able to work simply as a composer – in London I am usually balancing work as a composer, performer, teacher, and sound engineer. Though I have completed and made progress on many specific projects during my period of residence in Niederösterreich, which I will detail below, the most valuable element of the programme has been the afforded time to sit with my practice as a whole, allowing things to develop gradually and to reflect on recent work in the context of how I wish to move forwards during and after the period.

Regarding advantages and disadvantages: I think the flexibility of the programme and the lack of any specific work requirement is a key advantage, one that sets the programme apart from any residencies with which I am familiar with in the UK; I think the location is fantastic – the atmosphere of Krems is very unimposing, with enough to see and do without feeling overly busy or overwhelmed, and with lots of nature and good light; the accommodation has been great, though access to an oven (perhaps in the common area) would have helped me feel more able to cook and feel “at home” quickly; the financial support is generous and, again, set apart from equivalent programmes that I know of in the UK; I have met and been glad to get to know other artists also in residence through October, though perhaps an encouraged social event early in the residency period would help to build these relationships earlier; though I think that the lack of specific work requirement is a significant strength of the programme, I wonder if community engagement could be a bigger part somehow – I don’t know what this should look like, but I felt slightly detached from the community, if not the place (in the UK community engagement is a required aspect of most publicly-funded arts activities) – perhaps this could be begun with a free, growing archive of the work of current and previous residents, available online and physically?

Projects engaged during residency period:

- Completion of a book, *Some Lines: Verbally-notated editions of previously otherwise-notated music*, for self-publication in the UK (image below – not yet released!)
- Composition, recording, and release of an album of piano music, *Miniatures for an Austrian Piano*, recorded on the atelier piano (image and link below, released on Bandcamp)
- Two public performances in Krems: one at the home of local artist Heide Thurner, and one in Forum Frohner as part of Kinder Kunst festival – excerpts from both performances were recorded and have been released independently (images and links below, released on Bandcamp)
- Completion of a presentation/video essay, *Cartographies: Notation as map-making by way of five abandoned pieces*, submitted and accepted for academic conference at

Guildhall School of Music and Drama (London) and later released independently (link below, released on Youtube)

- Composition, recording and release of a piece for piano, *Piano Study 7, or, the logical extension of both Piano Study 1 and Piano Study 6* (link below, released on SoundCloud)
- Preparation for the recording and release of an upcoming album with Sawyer Edition (Texas), recording in London in November, the completion of four large professional opportunity applications, and editing of prior work to fit my more recent formatting style – though these activities sound less exciting than those above, they are things it is hard to make time for normally, and this is a big benefit of the residency!

Though I am happy with everything I did get to see, I wish that I had spent more time in the galleries in Krems (I did not get to them all!) – I worked a lot for my first two weeks and had then set a rhythm for myself which meant I did not take much time off. I also enjoyed exploring Vienna (I went into the city on two days), but would have liked to see more of Lower Austria outside of Krems, either by bike or train.

Links:

1 - *Some Lines: Verbally-notated editions of previously otherwise-notated music* (not yet released)
- Attached to email

2 – *Miniatures for an Austrian Piano*:
<https://jamesmcreed.bandcamp.com/album/miniatures-for-an-austrian-piano> (image below)

3 – *Oktober 20, Krems an der Donau, 2022*:
<https://jamesmcreed.bandcamp.com/album/oktober-20-krems-an-der-donau-2022> (image below)

4 – *Oktober 26, Forum Frohner, Krems an der Donau, 2022*:
<https://jamesmcreed.bandcamp.com/album/oktober-26-forum-frohner-krems-an-der-donau-2022> (image below)

5 – *Cartographies: Notation as map-making by way of five abandoned pieces*:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytlgBzV485Y>

6 – *Piano Study 7, or, the logical extension of both Piano Study 1 and Piano Study 6*:
<https://soundcloud.com/jamesmcreed/piano-study-7> (image below)

Images overleaf, all designs by me*

* I have also included below a promotional image of myself, in case it is needed for the website. This image is taken by Daryl Feehely, <https://photos.darylfeehely.com/>

