

AIR – ARTIS IN RESIDENCE NIEDERÖSTERREICH RESIDENCY REPORT – JAMES RUSHFORD

How was your residency at AIR?

I had a fantastic and productive stay at Krems. The facilities and accommodation were ideal for working in a focused and uninterrupted manner, and the staff were very helpful and supportive.

Please advantages and disadvantages of the program.

This is one of the best residency programs I have had the privilege to attend. The comfortability of the lodgings and stipend very much help alleviate everyday stresses, so that work can be undertaken with focus. The only disadvantage I can see is the length of the residency period, which meant that I had to alter my project quite radically.

What did you realize during your residency period?

During my residency, I realized two new compositions. One was for the Buchla System 100 synthesizer (kindly upon invitation from the Ernst Krenek Forum), and the other for portative organ.

The Buchla work was workshopped and created over ten days in the Krenek Forum, where I developed a patch in which long abstract tones were fed through two sequencers filtered by the Buchla's gate and random voltage controls. This resulted in a dream-like, atmospheric work where the subtle rhythmic counterpoint between each sequencer punctuated a sustained organ-like chord progression.

The portative organ work, titled *Nupta Cadavera*, took as its point of departure the eponymous Etruscan torture practice, where the living and the dead are bound together. The work explored different models of thinking through musical decay, particularly by exploiting the harmonic relationships between two differently tuned portative organs (one was live, the other pre-recorded). In this work, harmonic decay operated as a vermicular structure, where intervals 'twist' around and envelop each other, slowly melding together.

Both works were presented at the Krenek Forum during my residency, co-presented as part of the Imago Dei Osterfestival, and recorded by O1 Radio Vienna. I was also interviewed by the radio in Vienna about the Krenek Buchla and my work.

For the remainder of my residency, following the concert, I continued to refine, extend and develop *Nupta Cadavera* through recording sessions in the Krenek Forum.

What did you miss at the residency?

I didn't miss a thing! Except perhaps some more social gatherings between residents.

What do you appreciate at AIR?

The AIR program was wonderfully supportive. I very much appreciate the warmth and generous assistance of Johan and Sabine, who were willing to answer any queries I had, and helping me with equipment hire.

I also appreciate the meetings that are set up between various institutions (Galerie Stadtpark, Kunsthalle Krems etc.) and the residents.

The maintenance of the apartments is also a huge help, when time is limited!

ACTIVITIES

Concert presentation – *Nupta Cadavera*

Two new compositions for portative organ and Buchla synthesizer
Ernst Krenek Forum, Imago Dei Osterfestival, April 12, 2019.

Radio Interview – O1 Vienna

Interview with Marie-Therese Rudolph regarding the *Nupta Cadavera* concert, and working at the Ernst Krenek Forum.

ORF-Funkhaus, Vienna, April 19, 2019.