

Artist is Residence Report
Krems, Austria September 2010
Artist: Adriano Adewale (musician/composer/educator)

The artistic residency undertaken by Adriano happened during the whole month of September 2010. He proposed to develop work in three main areas: Network with local musicians/ Educational projects/ Development work on Adriano's own material.

There was no schedule as to what would be focused first, however it has become clear that each week had its own focus, making the residency very structured.

1st Week

I started my research trying to understand the relations between defined and non defined pitch sounds. What is the smoothest way to combine those two different categories of sounds.

This question has led me onto to the origins of music, where I started researching when "music" was actually considered to be "music", and the history of music throughout the times. It has been interesting to note that even online, the history of music is told mainly from a western point of view. There are many books and a lot of material I still have to research in order to come to a "conclusion", however it has opened up a new door and made me aware of how I can at least begin to conceptualize the sounds I use in my percussion set up and in my own compositions generally speaking.

2nd week

All days of this week were scheduled, I divided the day in three different parts and focused on practising in the morning, composing in the afternoon and reading in the evenings. I managed to come up with a practical solution for my percussion set up, which now has a much clearer direction in terms of which sounds I am using, and how to place them. I am also challenging myself as how to play different instruments at the same time, trying to broaden my skills as a percussionist.

I have found out about Susanne Wenger's collection and connection with Krems and Wolfgang Denk. I met Susanne in 2004/2005 while I was travelling in Nigeria and Benin Republic, in search of my roots. I visited the Oshun shrine, but at that time did not have much contact and understanding of Susanne's art. The meeting with Wolfgang was extremely import as he explained many aspects of the work involving Wenger's art, the Yoruba mythology and how Susanne was relating it to Carl Jung. Again, there was/is a lot to be discussed and I am aware we can have only being speaking on the surfaces of such subjects. The myths, the archetypes, the origins of music, it all seems to be on the same direction, yet it still very distant from one another.

3rd week

Educational projects and collaborations were the two main focus of this week.

The experience with BORG school students was very rewarding. At the beginning I was trying to come across with ideas to overcome the barriers of language issues and how to be closer to the pupils. It was a very natural process where the communication happened with no major issues, and students achieved all goals they have been asked to. They are very talented pupils, with very good musicality. The work was very much supported by Agnes, their music teacher, who was always present. The performance was excellent, and gave everybody something to work towards. There were students working really hard and not been at all afraid of the new challenges they had to go through.

Sekelela is a seven piece band, led by oboe player/composer Cornelia Pesendorfer, it was a great experience to be involved with local musicians. The concert happened at St Polten and it was very successful. It was part of a festival where I could also see/listen to other local bands.

Martin Ptak was an other musician I have met and collaborated with. He has a trombone quartet which played at a ceremony in Krems. As part of the band there was also a great balafon player/composer Mamadou Diabate. (This particular concert happened on the 2nd Oct)

4th week

Alongside practising, and exploring the new concepts of relation between art/myth, I have also spent time working on a business overview. It is very common, as an artist, to not pay attention to this aspect. However I think it is a great mistake and therefore decided to spend sometime trying to have a better understanding about the music business in general. How to operate and communicate with managers, how this understanding of business can help me to grow as an artist and take me to the next level, allowing me to collaborate with great musicians, festivals and record labels.

I have also met Joachim Roedelius, after his concert at House of Musik and finally on the 3rd October I saw a fantastic concert by Christian Muthspiel (trombone player/composer), which has had a great impact on me. His way of fusing traditional music with experimental/contemporary classical music/Jazz and electronics is very innovative, with great arrangements.

Outcome

This residency came on an appropriated moment, where after working non stop, an artist takes a moment to have an overview of what he/she has been done so far. It works as a picture. You step away from your own life and look at it from the outside, You stop in time and give yourself a moment. And soon after that you start working

practically again, however with a clear understanding of where you are going. As far I am concerned, all the proposed ideas have been achieved. As for the concept of what I am creating, composing, I do not think a definite answer will ever be enough, there will always be a new piece of information, someone great will always come and tell you of something you do not know and then an other door will be opened, an other horizon...

Ps: Obviously also I enjoyed the Sturm, the amazing bike rides, the cafes and the tomato soup!!!