

AIR Artistic Residence – Krems/ Austria

June 2011

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My first experience at Krems AIR program happened in 2010. It was a very enjoyable and inspiring, I could focus on different areas of my work. Such opportunity gave me the chance to visit and develop ideas on an unique way. It has awoken myself to discover a new sound world, as well as providing space for reflections on music business, education and concepts /identity of sounds I am creating at the moment.

1. Sound / Identity

In 2010 I have researched the origin of the materials which my instruments are made from. i.e. metal, wood, plastic. It enables me to develop and deepen the understanding of each sound world I deal with, so I can listen to/play each sound in different ways. Also I had several discussions with Jo Aichinger about tonality and tuning systems being used by contemporary classical composers. I was very interested on Harry Partch and his instruments made out of bamboo. Amongst various subjects, the issue of sound and context was a highlight. I came to an understanding that revolutionary ideas of music and art are strictly connected to the environment of where they are created. One piece of music, one type of sound may symbolize two opposite things depending on where they are played/heard. This research is an ongoing process of investigation which I will always re visit.

2. The Festival workshops at the monastery

The workshops at the Monastery were part of the Glatt&Verkehr festival. It was a fantastic experience. Personally I enjoyed the atmosphere and the way the week developed. Students of all levels were together making music from different traditions. It was great to see so many types of music genres combined altogether to create such a magical sound world. The evenings were a crucial moment where everybody would come and share, play and express themselves. It was very intense and emotional, culminating with a great concert lasting more than three hours. I have had many students speaking to me about their experience and how important it was for them to be there. I have learnt many things, both with students and with the other tutors. I truly believe it is something many people should experience, it is a life experience.

3. Business

I attended a music career development residency just before my AIR residency and was very inspired by how the business side of music can shape an artistic carrier. It is important to understand how it works and how it can take the music and the musician/composer to a different place altogether. When I say music business I do not mean essentially the ways of making money with music., but how to create a scenario where music and artistic can survive and take the concept/legacy of the project further, securing it a long life, experimenting with different artists and therefore nurturing the development of which could potentially give birth even to a completely new style through which one can express him/herself.

4. Practicing instruments

I had some my instruments with me and also there were some instruments hired by AIR. It was great to be able to explore different sounds, and play with the percussion set up. However I felt I would like to spend more time specifically focused on that. Perhaps in collaboration with an other instrumentalist , a fine artist or sound artist.

5. Workshops at the school

There were two days workshop, on a school nearby. The students were teenagers. Some of them played instruments and most of them had worked with arts as part of their school program. The workshop had no conventional instruments, and the focus was on vocal and body percussion. They learnt rhythms based on Brazilian music and also they created their own short pieces. However shy in the beginning, they were very creative and once they found how they could contribute to the pieces, they were very active. There were also moments where it was hard to keep the concentration and the behavior would not necessarily help the process.

Overall speaking, it was a fruitful and very intense residency. With a wide range of focuses which I have started to develop and will take it further in due course. The feeling after this residency is one of who am I again. It is like re discovering yourself. A new start, however with the experience and background from before.