

## **Amelia's & Werner's highlights AIR Krems 2011**

\* workshop with students of the BORG music high school in Krems

thanks to music teacher Andrea Haslinger and KLANGRAUM KREMS, we had the opportunity to share with some students an intensive workshop on dhrupad singing and voice production. Besides singing, we did body work and breathing exercises aimed at conveying some of the basic principles of the Indian approach to making music. Werner played a selection of traditional and crossover recordings. It has been a welcome but demanding challenge for us both, to get 13 years old youngsters interested and actively participating... Hopefully it has touched at least some of them and left an impact. I firmly believe in the usefulness of confronting music students with other perspectives to learning.

\* the sharing of a space and building with other artists and institutions dedicated to different art forms has definitely been a stimulating and enriching experience

\* discovery of a new territory and its people

### *Wachau*

innumerable walks, longer and shorter ones, have allowed us to get a feel for the geography and culture of this very special area.

The presence of the great Danube, with its riverbanks of giant, ancient trees, its stony islands, its powerful stream, the steep and picturesque Wachau hillsides bejeweled with villages of ancient architecture...It does sounds like a tourist brochure.... However, we had the luck to be able to see ourselves more as explorers than tourists, we were keen to get the pulse of this part of the world and imbibe its most inspiring riches.

The wine hills with beautifully laid out terraces create surprising geometrical patterns, the continuous changes of perspective that walking through such a varied and eventful territory offer, made every single trip an exciting discovery. It has also allowed us to get a feel for the land and its people in many different aspects of life: work, enjoyment, nourishment of body and mind.

### *Waldviertel*

a wonderful surprise, such bucolic, rolling landscapes and a healthy agricultural society, even if it is supposed to be in danger, we had the feeling that its strong and ancient roots are still alive and promising. We do hope its people will exploit the potential of the land, its clear energy and pure gifts!

### *Dunkelsteinerwald*

I had hardly ever seen such wonderful forest, tree as high as the Himalayan cedars...

\* prehistorical traces:

in several occasions and in different ways, we could experience the traces of a distant past, from Willendorf to Loiwein's rocks to Maria Laach's "Kraftweg". On the last day, we stumbled upon the reconstruction of a stone-circle and menhir in Geyersberg (Dunkelsteinerwald).

We were thankful to be able to experience some of these special places and realize that people here seem more aware of the powers of earth and nature than in other parts of the world. This honoring of the earth and connecting to ancient knowledge certainly made a difference in our way to relate to the environment.

\* Graz:

we have attended the opening of the Steirischer Herbst Festival because we were especially interested in this dance and singing performance, CESENA, a collaboration of 2 artists we admire, A.T. De Keersmaeker and Björn Schmelzer. It was well worth the trip to Graz and a very inspiring and rewarding show. We greatly enjoyed the beauties of the city and its stimulating artistic atmosphere.

We think all these strong impressions and inputs have had a powerful influence on our musical creativity. We are grateful for having had the chance to elaborate them in our music in real time!

We have been developing a new kind of work, which requires a calm mind and focussed attention, with long sustained tones in Just Intonation pitches and the use of delays, newly designed for us in a maxpatch. It is a droney music opening up a vast inner space, exploring various aspects of harmonic relationships with rhythmic interplays, based on the speed of the beatings of very close intervals.

Werner designed a new set of instruments for this piece, using PVC pipes bought at a local Baumarkt.

The AIR in Krems provided us with the required setting to develop this music, which is in parts delicate and fragile and demands for a careful and slowly paced unfolding. For us, it has been a unique chance to work for several weeks consistently on this new piece, which has brought to focus some important issues in our collaboration, without any interruption or distraction.

We wish to thank first of all Jo Aichinger and his wonderful family for the many delectable moments together with superb Austrian cuisine and warm friendship and stimulating exchanges. We are also grateful to Elke Pehamberger at the AIR for her kind help, the support and the pleasant time together at the Heuriger. Many thanks also to Paula Haslinger and Lisi Grand for helping with sound equipment and the workshop.

We will remember these and many other nice people we met during this time, they have contributed to make our stay and work so enjoyable and rewarding.

Amelia Cuni & Werner Durand, Berlin 7-11-2011

[www.ameliacuni.de](http://www.ameliacuni.de)

[www.wernerdurand.com](http://www.wernerdurand.com)

some photos are attached separately  
a Cd with 2 recordings has been left with you