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AIR, May 2013 Krems, Austria

I enjoyed my time at AIR in Krems. First of all, the apartment was very nice, big enough, quiet, and a good view. Very sunny in the afternoons. A good place to work. I liked that I had a sound system and a piano. It was easy to find a rhythm with shopping and eating. Krems is very developed for a small town and I enjoyed swimming, hiking, biking and sitting in the park, all of which were necessary antipodes to the work I was doing. Unfortunately the weather wasn't ideal, but nothing you can do about that. Internet was good. It was also great to have the washing machine.

I met the other artists-in-residence. It was a very mixed group with different interests that hardly overlapped, though one, Joshua Churchill, was also interested in sound. I felt that people were here to work and not necessarily to socialize, though we did hang out a few times and always had a good time. I even went on a very long hike with Rebeccah Schnyder, to the Göttweig.

I spent most of my time at the Minortenkirche, working on my installation. This worked out very well, since I was given a key and complete trust to operate the equipment, etc. The staff there are excellent.

I worked on four projects while here:

1. Room Pieces Krems, an installation at the Minorettenkirche sponsored by Klangraum Krems. This is a 16 channel sound piece lasting 80 minutes. I needed long hours in the space to construct the piece in a suitable way for the exhibition space, which presents many challenges. I would estimate that in the first two weeks here I spent about 100 hours in the space, fine tuning many aspects of how the sound dwelt in the room, creating many small delays, equalization differences, etc. to clarify the placement of sounds and create an architectural counterpoint. This piece opened on May 23 and will run through July 7.
2. A new work for the Liz Gerring Dance Company in New York, which we will begin working on in a two week residency in New Jersey in June. This piece has many similar aspects to the Room Pieces, so working in the space tangentially helped the dance piece. I was also using a video of the dance to work, and was in contact with the choreographer over Skype.
3. Music for my band, diNMachine, for which I composed a number of new pieces using my laptop and ProTools, plus the piano. This band has a number of performances scheduled over the summer.
4. Finally, I worked on some new tuning systems for use in various projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to work here. The relatively slow pace and quiet of Krems was very conducive to concentrated work. The staff were very supportive and professional. I appreciated getting paid promptly. I can't really think of any disadvantages; if one is interested in getting a lot done then the place is ideal. I liked the food at the restaurants, enjoyed visiting the Kunsthalle and galleries, etc. etc. I will suggest applying to the AIR in Krems to my friends.