

Rita Mačiliūnaitė (b. 1985), Lithuania
composer/performer

artist in residence 2013, February

During the period of residency I was working in three different paths:

1. composing electroacoustic - audiovisual project “**gute Nacht**” (for baritone, tape and video projections);
2. writing thesis about musical narration problem in postdramatic theatre;
3. rehearsing music, composed by L. Berio.

To compose the project “gute Nacht” I was inspired after I had read a book „Grünverschlossene Botschaft. 90 Träume” by Austrian-born poet and writer Hans Carl Artmann’s (1921–2000). The book is described as a drama-book of 90 dreams. My project can be called as grotesque performance/theatrical musical performance. Myself the first time I have ever worked it with all the elements: idea generation, writing texts, composing music, video making and editing, etc. I describe my project’s plot as a wander of the soloist, who is lost in the dimension between dreams and awaking. He experiences pleasures of his dreams, he tries to interpret the meanings of the symbols, also he finds out a lot of information about his brain activity while sleeping. And here comes the question - how to leave the dream and back to reality?

The performance will be based on interactive musical show where the soloist will communicate with people on the video tape/screen. Video characters perform multiple functions: they become figures of his nightmares, sometimes they pretend being scientists who analyze brain function, also they know how interpret the symbols by using a wisdom of ancient and dream dictionary.

Stories, which are used in “gute Nacht”, is based on my own and other people dreams, also I am using fragments of dream-dictionaries and science books. The structure of the piece is related to process of sleep. The premier should be in July during the festival “The night of culture” in Lithuania.

My second task – thesis, mostly analyze the ability of a composer to manipulate all sounds of theatre space. This ability creates favorable conditions for music emancipation in the performing arts area, after - music becomes as independent structure of theatre. As soon as the new theatre changed the relation with drama - new genres metamorphosis occurred. Postdramatic theater is open to new dimension of narration creativity. The Result is musical narration. I also analyze musical narration, which encourages more abstract and broader interpretation of the work.

And the last, but not the least, task was to prepare L. Berio music: “O King” (for voice and 5 players), “El mar la mar” (for soprano, mezzo-soprano and 7 instruments), “Altra voce” (for mezzo-soprano, alto flute and live electronics). This music I will perform in one of the most famous electronic music festival in April “JAUNA MUZIKA” in Lithuania.

Apart the things I was working on, I had a lovely time to enjoy the residency. Somehow

I could change my routine and wake up early, so I had plenty of time for other things than composing: climbing in the wine fields, walking on the shore of the river, visiting museums (thank you for the free entrances!), chatting and doing yoga with other artists of the residency. I must say, the apartments are prepared so well and comfortable, you can find everything you need (even more!), that really helps to relax and focus only on your own creativity, the only one lack I could find - I did not have a piano in my room, but thanks to my lovely colleague Ursula, it became not a big problem at all, I was always welcome at her place to use it for my practicing.

I should say, we had spent some lovely evenings with another artists while cooking together in TOP 25. It is really useful to have one common room for everybody's uses!

My very big and sincere thanks goes to staff: Sabine, Paula and Jo for their help, chats and hospitality.

Lots of love,
Rita Mačiliūnaitė