

Dániel Péter Biró / Kai Johannes Polzhofer

Perspectives for
Contemporary Music
in the 21st Century

wolke

This publication is made possible in part from the Barr Ferree Foundation Fund for Publications, Department of Art and Archaeology, Princeton University.

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Wolke Verlag, Hofheim

The authors and publisher are grateful to Edition Peters and Edition Gravis for the ability to reproduce examples from Dániel Péter Biró and Ming Tsao.

Printed in Germany

Typesetting in Simoncini Garamond

Cover design: Friedwalt Donner, Alonissos

Cover photo: Erdmute Blitz, Alonissos

ISBN 978-3-95593-072-1

www.wolke-verlag.de

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Preface

The following volume is an outcome of the conference “New Tendencies of Contemporary Music in Germany,” which occurred in the Department of Music, Harvard University, and the Goethe-Institute Boston in spring 2015 and was organized by Dr. Steven Kazuo Takasugi and Kai Johannes Polzhofer. This conference dealt with contemporary developments of new music in Germany. Over a three-day period, a group of composers, sociologists and philosophers analyzed, discussed and gave answers to questions about the present and future of new music as a critical art form.

The present volume integrates proceedings from this conference with a set of chapters written by a diverse, international group of artists and scholars. The goal of the book is to foster discourse about and to provide new perspectives for contemporary music today in a critical manner. In this way, it is the hope of the co-editors that it will initiate reflection and promote constructive discussions about the role of contemporary music in society.

The co-editors would like to thank the Goethe-Institute Boston and the Harvard University Department of Music for their financial support and help in organizing the conference. Special thanks go to Annette Klein, Christoph Mücher, Trevor Bača and Wieland Hoban. Zsófia Surján assisted with translations and proofreading. The authors are very grateful for her help. The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study supported Dr. Biró during his time at Harvard University. The University of Victoria provided study-leave for Dr. Biró, allowing him to complete this volume. We are grateful to all of these organizations for their generous assistance. Substantial funding for the production of this volume was provided by the Barr Ferree Foundation at Princeton University.

Finally, we thank Peter Mischung for his faith in this project, and for his work throughout the editing and production process.