Brian Questa

Bach Inventionen: gegenläufig ohne E

für Klavier (2013 - 2016)

Program text

From the premiere of Inventions 15, 14, and 13, at the Composer's Klassenkonzert at the Karlsruhe Hochschule für Musik:

"Good evening.

My piece tonight is heavily influenced by the conceptual artists of the 1960s USA. I would briefly like to explain this term, "Conceptual Art," not only in case you are unfamiliar with it, but also, where many meanings are available, to make clear what exactly its influence on this piece is.

Conceptual Art refers to art where the *Idea*, or the *Concept*, is more important than the traditional aesthetics. By using a "statement of intention," the conceptual artist defines his goal at the start of each work. The piece than is about merely executing the idea inherent to this statement, without any attempt at decoration, censorship, or review.

One of the most famous Conceptual artists is a man named Sol Lewitt. I often visit his sculpture here in Karlsruhe, which is in front of the Badisches Landesbibliothek. He wrote in his Sentences on Conceptual Art, "In conceptual art the idea or concept is the most important aspect of the work. When an arist uses a conceptual form of art, it means that all of the planning and decisions are made beforehand and the execution is a perfunctory affair. The idea becomes a machine that makes the art."

The idea becomes a machine that makes the art.

Lawrence Weiner, another famous conceptual artist, is even more of a purist with the relationship of his statement of intention to his work. His work consists entirely of his statemens. The sentences themselves are his art. He famously said in relation to this, "The work need not be performed".

This brings me to tonight's piece, "Bach Inventions without E in reverse." I too wanted to write conceptual sentences, that "need not be performed" - ideas, or *machines that make the art*, which were so clear in intentention, one could understand, or almost hear the entire piece, just from the sentences. I began to keep a notebook full of such statements.

Tonight's work comes from that note work, in two sentences: 1) A Bach Invention backwards. 2) The note E removed.

Thank you for listening."

dedicated to Simon Smith

Brian Questa

















































































































