KRISTALLNACHT MUSIC by Richard Lerman

KRISTALLNACHT MUSIC was composed for cello and electronics by Richard Lerman and was premiered at the 1991 Klanken aan de Dijk Festival (Sounds along the Dike) in Neerijnen, the Netherlands where it was performed by cellist Maria Hol and Lerman on electronics. It was performed again in 1997 at the Judah L. Magnes Museum in Berkeley, California by Lerman and cellist Robin Bonnell. It is a companion piece to the installation KRISTALLNACHT by Mona Higuchi and Lerman and ideally, should be performed inside the piece which contains several thousand pieces of suspended glass, audio and laser light and is shown here at the Magnes Museum.

The Netherlands installation and performance took place inside an old building with a thatch roof which was amplified and brought into the performance space through loudspeakers. In performance, the cellist is continuously recorded using tape delays. The sources for this recording included the thatch roof itself, amplified candles placed throughout the space and small microphones, including some on the glass itself.

Basically, this is the same kind of self-built equipment used to create the soundtrack for the installation. I used very sensitive self-built microphones to record the sounds of amplified barbed wire, trees, rocks and voices at Dachau, near Munich, Germany.

The score offers the cellist several cells to work with. Because the music is layered in performance, the cellist is encouraged to transpose, vary the tempi or apply other musical transformations. At times, the cellist may only be heard live (in real time) while at other points in the performance, the texture will be very thick.

Kristallnacht Music

for cello and electronics

Richard Lerman ©1992 BMI





