

Dirk Johan Stromberg

Personal Statement

I am a product of the media generation; brought up with computers, television and immersed in pop-culture. I consider myself a musician, someone who works with, studies and lives for sound. What began as a love for performing and playing developed a passion for creating and working with sound in many facets. I started off in music classes in Switzerland when I was only four or five. There I studied with our neighbor who was a professor at a local conservatory and she taught me to read music, theory and to play the recorder. Over the years I continued my music education and continued to move from county to country. Music seemed to become my common language in my linguistically confused upbringing.

My interests changed, as I began playing guitar, to blues and pop music then to jazz. While working as a jazz musician I became increasingly interested with the use of noise for expression in the works of Penderecki and Coltrane. I was impressed with their ability to change perceptions of acceptability, form and sound color. My own performance and compositional practices followed suit as I began my own experiments with sound color, form and performance ritual. Soon I was deeply involved in all things avant, from avant-pop to avant-garde.

Technology became an accidental friend through circumstances. It began through a curiosity and a hunger for knowledge in all kinds of music. Over time I came to understand the possibilities presented by technology. Soon I found myself trying to find ways of bringing technology into acoustic music. I have since devoted my research and compositions to the per suite of the integration of technology and acoustic instruments.

I had always hoped to teach at a university and during my graduate work I got my first experiences that were followed up by my first full-time teaching position when I was invited to teach at Istanbul Bilgi University. Currently I am on faculty at Saigon Technology University in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, while also the executive director of the Contemporary Music Festival, Ho Chi Minh City.