

ABSTRACT

Name: Johan van Kreij

Main Subject: Composition

Research supervisor: Richard Barrett

Title of Research:

Of Rules and Canons — Raaijmakers' Reflection on Morphology

Research Question:

What is the relevance of Dick Raaijmakers' ideas concerning morphology, developed in 1964, for compositional thinking today? In what way can his composition Canon-1 be analyzed in terms of those morphological characteristics?

Summary of Result:

This research has contributed to a clear insight in how Raaijmakers has set up a logic around ideas of morphology, that allowed him to systematically work toward the realization of Canon-1. In his own research, he was able to approach sound as a phenomenon from a fresh angle by renewing and analyzing his own listening. Based on that experience he started to define the aspects of sound that according to him would be most suitable to be raised to a compositional level.

Contrary to what has regularly been claimed, Canon-1 was realized in a relatively short time. Partially this due to his vast experience in the studio but, more importantly, it was the result of a different attitude towards creating and selecting material for composition. This attitude was strongly linked to ideas that he formed concerning stochastic composition, which, in an electronic or digital situation, relate to very quickly being able to generate and evaluate sound material in terms of the desired characteristics.

Finally, I hope that this research adds to clarifying ideas that Raaijmakers throughout his life has returned to, of which the descriptions have at moments comes across to be so hermetically: morphological composition.

Biography:

Johan van Kreij is a musician whose artistic output focuses primarily on improvisation and composition using electronics. He studied music at the Institute of Sonology at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague, graduating in 1998. Frequently he performs his music, both as a soloist and with other musicians. He has participated in a long running and intensive collaboration with choreographer Ted Stoffer. For more than a decade he has been active within the field of music theatre through cooperations with Dick Raaijmakers and Paul Koek. Since 2001 he has been a permanent member of the teaching staff at Sonology.