

LEITMOTIF

What happens when we replace a characteristic feature, that an illustrator would usually draw as an image, and turn to sound? Letimotifs may point to a character in music, modern games and films, but it may also be used to point out particular features of a landscape, a mythical creature, a change of weather etc, such as in Wagner's The Ring cycle. The question was if we could use humble illustration tools to create sound patters that could highlight, underline, and conceal We have some characterizations about Z, that might help in the construction of a narrative character. His wife describes him as deeply devoted to music of many kinds, both in performing music and in teaching music at different levels. He was constantly playing and teaching on the side of a full job. He was meticulous in the way he kept his moustache trimmed, his clothes were always clean, his trousers and shirts ironed, his shoes polished. He did not appreciate people being late for appointments. Those who remember him as a teacher, tell of a firm and strict man who demanded much from the children, but who was also generous with helping children develop when he saw they had talent and motivation. He adopted well to the local environment and appreciated Norwegian nature and culture. He must have had a keen interest in military matters. He often referred to his soldier experience to the children he taught to play music, but some of the stories do not seem to be building on the experiences he had neither as a Polish soldier, nor as an Austrian soldier in Wehrmacht. He also kept silent about important parts of his biography to his family. In the context of being in Norway after the war, where the narrative about heroes and perpetrators very soon became black and white, he may have had good reasons to be silent. We speculate that he may have participated in the 'funny war' in France during the winter 1939-40, without having indisputable findings. We also speculate about his role during the sinking of Palatia, and later as a Wehrmach soldier in Norway. How did he manage to transform himself from a Wehrmach soldier to Displaced Polish forced laborer after the liberation? What was his role in the decades after the war, when he entered the Norwegian army, and has been travelling f. ex. to London visiting the Polish exile government?

Z is a person with a remarkable biography. The ethical dilemmas he faced may find resembling echos in us all, regardless of national or cultural background. His enigmatic presence of light and darkness is what we have tried to capture with illuminating and hiding details of his story.

DEFINING A SONIC AMBIENCE

In the sound compositions used as part of our performance we used recorded sound of pens, crayons and markers indicate different aspects of the narration. We want our iterations to be understood as artistic experimentations, not to necessarily to be taken as a suggestion for becoming a central branch of illustration research. Certain composers we have spoken to during our period of investigation have expressed precaution towards aspects of musical leitmotif, similar to the reservations as Roland Barthes expresses in *The Fetish of Character* about destroying the ‘multilevel unity of the whole work and bring forward only isolated popular passages’ (Barthes, 2001).

The same rule applies for illustration; if too rigid rules of character development are applied, it may reduce the audience's possibility to read ambiguous or contradicting interpretations of a narrative.

Regarding what Z may have felt about nationality, we ask if it may be fruitful to study him in a similar perspective as Judith Butler uses to describe possible angles to gender identities. Queer theory breaks down conventional, fixed, or normalized concepts of personhood based on such binaries as queer/straight, male/female, masculine/feminine, proper/improper (Butler, 2015). Could national identity in a case like Z's be seen as in flux, and as a constant flow of redefinition? While Z does display a changing national identity, one thing is constant: his passion for music. We have chosen to