



Call for Papers

Contemporary Hoffmann Between automated and artistically-individual music production

Symposium (Staatliches Institut für Musikforschung, Berlin / Webex)
11/12 November 2022

The poetic work of E.T.A. Hoffmann has inspired generations of writers, artists and composers, and it is well known that the concepts and characters he devised were adopted not only by Robert Schumann but also in wider circles throughout the 19th century. Hoffmann's literary work and aesthetics held also great fascination for composers and musicians of the 20th century and continues to do so to date, as evidenced by numerous settings and other compositions from Ferruccio Busoni's *Die Brautwahl* to Judith Weir's stage work *Heaven Ablaze in His Breast* to the steampunk opera *Klein Zaches genannt Zinnober* by the band Coppelius. On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Hoffmann's death, the symposium »Contemporary Hoffmann – Between automated and artistically-individual music production« takes up the SIMPK's annual theme. It aims to illuminate the reception of Hoffmann in compositions of the 20th and 21st centuries, while tracing down to the present time the echo of his highly ambivalent attraction for musical automata that appears to be undecided between allurement and fear in his literary works, such as *Der Sandmann* or *Die Automate*.

Based on these two central issues, we are asking for proposals on the following topics, but suggestions beyond these are also welcome:

- Settings of texts by E.T.A. Hoffmann and other references to Hoffmann's literary and musical works in compositions of the 20th and 21st centuries, in film music and multimedia projects.
- Music automatons in the 20th and 21st centuries: From self-playing pianos to android performers (construction of musical instruments, interpretation, reception and aesthetics).
- Interpretation and Improvisation in the context of Artificial Intelligence
- Automated composition in the 20th and 21st centuries: Techniques, aesthetic implications, compositional creativity of artificial intelligence.
- Science fiction: automata, androids, algorithms and the "uncanny" as a subject in music

In order to facilitate a diverse and interdisciplinary discussion, the call is addressed not only to researchers from musicology, but also from neighbouring disciplines such as literature, art, theatre, media studies, sociology, futurology, etc. Submissions from junior scholars are explicitly welcome.

The symposium is organised by Dr. Simone Hohmaier and Tom Wappler on behalf of the Staatliches Institut für Musikforschung PK, Berlin. Congress languages are German and English. A publication of the contributions is planned. The symposium will take place in presence at the Musikinstrumenten-Museum Berlin as well as online (via Webex).

Proposals for papers (20 minutes plus 10 minutes discussion) should include:

- Name, institution, short biography
- email address
- Abstract of max. 250 words

Please send your proposals to ETAH2022@sim.spk-berlin.de by 15 June 2022. The programme will be announced in early July 2022.