

Chain Reaction I

In 1974 I was a piano student of Astrid Schmidt-Neuhaus, who incidentally had also been Stockhausens piano teacher during his student days at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik Köln. Almost three years had passed since she started me with exercises of the quiet hand. I enjoyed them so much that I started practicing my motifs at ever slower and slower tempi. Although I had not yet heard of Butoh Dancers my stride was nonetheless with them in step. The real fun started with recording and variable speeds.

{mp3}ChainReaction1{/mp3}

Mixed at FEEDBACK STUDIO Cologne, Germany

The stage is set for Chain Reaction1

Audience recieves

key color information.

Stage starts to fall apart

at the audience. The mime

assures, there is

nothing to fear.

Artist turns the walls Blue

with cotton in his ears.

Green present time

mimmicks the audience.

White future time/Yellow mystical

/Blue healing.

Green present time sits

on red past time;

future/healing looms

in the background.

The conductor listens to Red past time

and White future time with one ear,

Green present time with the other.

White players only hear future time.

Silver oncoming technology operates

all the equipment, sits in the present

and videos the audience.

Green present time.

Red tape recorder

plays past time.

By now you should know that

three tapes are playing,

at 1x,2x and 3x speed.

The conductor hears all three.

The two players in White

hear a tape 2x faster

than the audience.

The conductor collapses to

the floor, future time reverses

their boards to show Yellow;

and lead the conductor off

carrying the still playing

tape of past time...

and the artist closes the set.

EXERPT