

Paul STEENHUISEN - PROGRAM NOTES

PIECE: BETWEEN LIPS AND LIPS THERE ARE CITIES

Endlessly paradoxical, catapulting the listener through rapidly changing and radically different literary materials and a labyrinthine path of compositional techniques, this antiphonal work pushes and pulls its course in the union of form and content. The result is an act of intellectual violence whose primary textual topics are existence, recursion/the infinite, and abstraction, reflected in the other materials through expanding and contracting interval and durational values, symmetrical chords and rhythms, and the displacement and fragmentation of time-points based on the palendromic source-rhythms. The texts were collected from 25 different authors, including writers (Samuel Beckett, Robert Browning, Albert Camus, Lewis Carroll, Douglas Coupland, Jean Genet, Pablo Neruda, Jean-Paul Sartre, Gertrude Stein, Arseniy Tarkovsky and William Carlos Williams), artists (Jenny Holzer, Jasper Johns, Jeff Koons, Richard Long, René Magritte and Andy Warhol), film-makers (Jean-Luc Godard and Wim Wenders), Zen Master Mumon, Parmenides of Elea, Guillaume de Machaut and Steve Martin, as well as an excerpt of text from Gregorian Chant and the names of selected porn stars.