

## **Paul STEENHUISEN - PROGRAM NOTES**

PIECE: millennia

“For millennia my teeth have wasted and my nails broken to get there...” This text, on which millennia is based, is a fragment from #14 Aguila o sol, The Poet's Works, by Octavio Paz. Each word was subjected to the following textual transformations: a visual font-type filter which exaggerates or eliminates characteristics of the letters, and/or a screen which considers the various spellings and misspellings of words in common practice in English and Dutch over the past 500 years. The word millennia means both the drive toward the turn of a new thousand years (along with the fanatical beliefs in chaos and collapse which supposedly precede it), and also means periods of happiness.

First performed by Sara Stowe, Juliet Hurel, and Irvine Arditti at the Darmstadt Summer Course for New Music.