

Paul Paulun – Noiz, St. Gallen

72 songs, 4 hours, 47 minutes

playlist programme for iTunes-Shuffle

Traditionally, music had the function to connect people by giving them the feeling of a shared experience - be it by mutual singing during work in the fields, dancing at a wedding, the invocation of spirits during festivities or while listening to music at a concert hall. However, Luigi Russolo's manifesto *The Art Of Noises* from 1913 paved the way for another angle towards music that is based on sound.

Later on, representatives of the soundscape movement like Murray Schafer even came to acknowledge the musical qualities of environmental occurrences. Of course, combinations like bells' sounds that are naturally enriched by footsteps, the sounds of water or animals' voices were never meant to be musical, but every so often they can get deciphered in the listeners mind - as imaginary music!

A similar listening experience can be found within the field of noise music. Apart from harsh noise there's an area, where artists work with more subtle noises, e.g. when revealing otherwise inaudible acoustic phenomena with contact microphones, while applying effects to sounds or during experiments with synthesizers. Every so often such noises may contain a poetic, albeit abstract quality. In contrast to the traditionally shared experience of music, the imaginary music achieved from natural soundscapes or certain noise is purely individual. Its quality depends to a great deal on the listener's imagination and openness towards new listening impressions.

As a sound researcher and musicologist I collect music of the most diverse origins and organize it in playlists. A lot of them are orientated along moods and take the form of programs. This approach is inspired by companies like Muzak or DMX Music, which provide playlists for the salesrooms of multinational corporations such as H&M, Starbucks or Mc Donald's. In contrast to music mirroring a brand's image, my playlists are meant to open new prospects. They are designed for shuffle mode, thus creating sound sculptures that are unpredictable within a set bandwidth. The criteria for the playlist *Noiz, St. Gallen* are: abstract, interesting to listen to, neither too obtrusive nor dark, not necessarily pleasant, containing poetic qualities and/or musical structures.