

Commentary:

Vassos Nicolaou "**Rituals**" for ensemble and live electronics (2007)

Duration : Approx. 10 minutes

Production of the electronics at the Institut for Music and Acoustics - ZKM in Karlsruhe.

The first half of the piece consists of a sequence of imaginary rituals, music based on the speeds of storytelling, stylized conversations, hieratic-like gestures, dance and their echoes.

The second half is a unique process involving in itself several characters which are appearing abruptly and in a non-linear manner as though an external technology is being applied. This part is dominated by a single ascending (initially) gesture.

Always at least two of the instruments are playing heterophonically and therefore they are masking each other producing ambiguities in color and in localization.

The electronic sounds are used as sound-colours and especially as a part of a net of harmonic relations. The electronics are expanding the acoustical properties of instruments - it is possible to listen to things as though through a microscope. The work with the electronics fascinates me very much. One could change reality, like by filtering in real time the pitched-part of piano playing and projecting the manipulation of the rest of the sound (noise of the keys and hammers) back into the musical context.

“Rituals” is dedicated to IEMA and to Johannes Schwarz.

Vassos Nicolaou