

Sinophony I

Sinophony I is a quadrophonic tape composition from the year 1970, my first in this genre. Characterised by the octavophobia typical of those times, it is a clearly tempered and serial work: its total frequency range from 36 to 14400 Hz, forming the ratio 1:400, was logarithmically divided by 79 into 80 equal steps of 131.3 cents, an octave-resistant interval. Occasionally this 80-tone scale was also used in the time-domain, either as seconds or more often as tape-length in centimetres. In contrast, the loudness parameter followed an independent amplitude scale.

Formally, the piece consists of a series of part-successive and part-overlapping sections called "Structures", e.g. Structure A (for the German "Anfang" [beginning], "Akkorde" [chords]), Structure K (for "Klang-Ketten" [sound-chains]) and Structure P (pointillistic pizzicato). Perhaps the most interesting is the final section Structure R (for "Raum-Rotation" [spatial rotation], Ring-modulation, "Rauschen" [noise]): a two-part sequence of ten plus ten tones are spatially rotated in opposite directions, whereby the speed of the sequence and that of the rotation is gradually increased. Acceleration, reverberation, ring-modulation and 'noisification' slowly convert the sequence into a static form.