

Abstract

Name of Work:

Falling Out of Cars for quarter-tone alto flute, guitar and electronics

Composer:

Stephen Kilpatrick

Premier Date:

6th September 2016

Location:

The Forge

3-7 Delancey Street

London

NW1 7NL

<http://www.forgevenue.org/>

Commissioning Artist: Carla Rees and Rarescale

<http://rarescale.org.uk/>

Abstract

Falling Out of Cars was commissioned by Carla Rees as part of a research project to explore the possibilities of the Kingma system quarter-tone alto flute and to expand and develop the repertoire of this relatively new variety of flute.

(<http://www.kingmaflutes.com/mySite/kswhat.html>)

This work is an expansion of my research into microtones, multiphonics, harmonics, extended techniques and other new timbral possibilities for woodwind instruments. The expanded tonal possibilities of the Kingma system quarter-tone alto flute allowed the exploration of these new modes of musical expression.

The piece is inspired by the Jeff Noon novel of the same name and explores the fluid relationship between “noise” and “information”. As well as drawing on “artistic” resources dealing with the subject, such as the source novel, the writings of John Cage etc., the piece attempts to explore the concept through concepts taken from information theory.

As well as exploring the concept of “noise versus information” through the instrumental performances, the piece examines the relationship further through the development of an live electronics performer. This further expands my research into new interfaces for computer-based performance. The MaxMSP performance patch for this premier was build by Kingsley Ash, under instruction from the composer, of Leeds Beckett University.

It is intended that Falling Out of Cars forms part of a series of new works that will eventually culminate in an opera written in collaboration with Jeff Noon.