

New Stages: Aesthetic Possibilities and Challenges of Music Performance on Video

In my PhD project I have been researching the understanding of space and place in music performance in different cultures, their influence on the conceptions of 'stage', and performer/audience dynamics across diverse ways of performing. In order to analyse how these concepts might interact in music performance, I produced a series of exploratory events in 'empty spaces' - the New Stages Series - with alternative performance layouts, differing in many ways from traditional music concerts from pre- to post-production. In 2020, due to the pandemics, the New Stages Series had to be postponed; however, following the interest created by the series, a few institutions and ensembles approached me in order to produce video-performances following the same aesthetic ideas as the live events. In this way, after some months of conceptual and logistic preparation and adaptation, I started producing, in collaboration with composer and film director Bernardo Simões, video projects commissioned by institutions such as the Embassy of Brazil in London, and ensembles such as Tangram. These films explored the aesthetic possibilities of music performance by allying alternative layouts of performance to cinema techniques of production. In this presentation I will briefly present some results of the New Stages Series and the video projects, and analyse some aesthetic possibilities and logistic challenges involved in the 'migration' from live events to video projects, with the aim of further developing the conceptual tools involved in the production and delivery of music performance on video.

LINKS TO VIDEO PROJECTS:

MARÉS - JOURNEYS INTO BRAZILIAN MUSIC (commissioned by the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V51qL4U6hFQ&list=PLx6PMYecuHC61oIFRxuvMIWwux2KkMut2>

INFUSION (commissioned by Tangram for the 'Voices' series)
<https://youtu.be/8-ZvDDu6km0>

Mã for guitar - Sun Keting (2020), (commissioned by the Chinese Arts Now)
https://youtu.be/TvNL2_MXxe4



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Fabricio Mattos is a Brazilian musician deeply committed to finding new paths for music performance in the 21st century. Founder of WGC-Worldwide Guitar Connections, he has been performing regularly worldwide, having premiered dozens of works for guitar and toured in five continents over the last years. Mattos is also a multiple award-winner, including the prestigious 'Julian Bream Prize' awarded by the legendary British guitarist Julian Bream. Fabricio Mattos is currently a PhD candidate at the Royal Academy of Music, producer of the

experimental New Stages Series, and regularly works as creative director of live performances and video projects commissioned by a wide variety of ensembles and institutions.

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