# On Originale by Mark Bloch

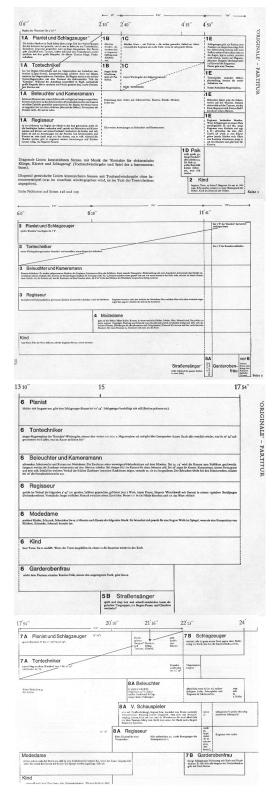
The 33 year old composer Karlheinz Stockhausen was transformed by his meeting with John Cage in Darmstadt, Germany in 1958. The result was more graphic scores and a more theatrical direction for his music. The score for *Originale* (Originals) was created rapidly during a visit to Finland in July 1961 by Stockhausen. He was responding to a commission for a "theatrical" work from a theater producer in Cologne. He used as his point of departure *Kontakte* (1960), a piece he had recently completed for electronic four-channel tape and piano/percussion duo. The underappreciated staging of *Originale* at its Cologne premiere in Fall 1961 resulted in funding drying up two days into the twelve-day run which Stockhausen, artistically satisfied, made other arrangements to complete.

Nevertheless, *Kontakte* and *Originale* were both important for many reasons. *Kontakte* was probably the first true quadraphonic composition ever. To surround the audience with sound, Stockhausen used a turntable with a rotating loudspeaker surrounded by four microphones to enable the re-recording of spinning sounds. Then, *Kontakte's* live piano, percussion and the quad tape combined with live "actors" to create *Originale*. *Kontakte*, even without the theatrical component, was one of the first pieces of its kind to combine pre-recorded sound and live instrumentation, with the goal of presenting the entire range of sound from noise to tone. For Stockhausen, it also signaled the beginning of his next work, the open form composition *Momente*, a "moment" score approach, rather than a progression.

For *Originale*, the language and action by the performers was introduced as elements in a score just as musical instruments would be. Eighteen sets of instructions for the actors were placed in time boxes. Each character's actions were carefully timed according to the score. These actions were grouped into seven 'structures' to be performed alone or up to three at once.

The reason the work was called "Originals" was because performers were playing themselves. A painter played The Painter, an actor played The Actor and a poet played The Poet. They did what they would "originally" do. Cinematographers, gaffers and models also went about their work on stage.

These activities, occurring all at once, created the complex texture of the piece which is why it was such a natural for the



Happenings genre that was popular at this time. The form's creator, Allan Kaprow was brought in to stage the production in New York. A scaffolding was constructed and elements such as a loose chimpanzee and a gold-fish swimming in a bowl hanging from the ceiling added to the chaotic feel of the piece.

In addition to the bedlam and ambient noise created by the performers going about their business, Stockhausen's *Kontakte* provided the "musical" soundtrack of *Originale*. A film camera, a tape recorder and a stage manager shouting instructions accompany a pianist and a percussionist (playing themselves) performing *Kontakte*. A few minutes into the score, the players stop and the tape of their performance and the shouts of the stage manager is then played. In this way the notion of "originals" playing themselves is further complicated. At the same time, the composer specified by name in his score that a special performer he encountered at Darmstadt in Germany, who was not an "original," create "action music": the artist Nam June Paik would perform bizarre actions inspired by what Stockhausen had previously seen him do.

In 2003, for the occasion of a screening of Peter and Barbara Moore's film of the NY event, *Stockhausen's Originale: Doubletakes*, (16mm, black and white, sound, 32 minutes, 1964-93), Andy Ditzler wrote that Paik performs three of his own pieces during *Originale*, "including *Simple* (1961), in which he covers himself with shaving cream, flour, and rice, and climbs into a tub to wash off, then drinks the water out of his own shoe."

In summer 1964, cellist Charlotte Moorman was putting together her 2nd Annual New York Avant Garde Festival. Moorman had never heard of Paik, who went on to be a Fluxus performer and invent the Video Art genre, but it was the start of an artistic collaboration between the two that would last for decades and be a centerpiece of both of their lives.



Left to right, top: Robert Delford Brown, Charlotte Moorman, and Allan Kaprow. Middle row: Nam June Paik (with basin), Gloria Graves, Allen Ginsberg. On ground: David Behrman (with headphones) Olga Kluver, Jackson MacLow, and Max Newhouse.

The NYC venue for *Originale* was Judson Hall, across from Carnegie Hall at 165 West 57th Street, which is no relation to the downtown Judson Church, off Washington Square Park, where much avant garde activity was to follow in the next few years. The two names are just a coincidence. The performances played on September 8th, 9th, 11th, 12th and 13th as part of the festival.

Andy Ditzler writes the following about the film: "Peter Moore (1932-1993)... was commissioned by theater producer Rhett Brown, wife of artist Robert Delford Brown (who appeared as The Painter in *Originale*) to produce a film of the event. Shooting in 16mm and using available light, Moore documented two nights of the run, and took still photos at the remaining shows. The film's subtitle, *Doubletakes*, reflects the fact that the film was shot during two successive evenings, so different views of the onstage events are seen in the film."

"Art historian and Moore's wife Barbara, who was present, recalls that the camera used to shoot *Doubletakes* was borrowed from the filmmaker and video artist Ed Emshwiller... Ms. Moore also noted that the onscreen presence of Brown as The Painter indicates that Peter Moore shot the film during the early nights of the run, since Brown was soon kicked out of the performance after a disagreement with Kaprow about his approach to the role."



Brown responded in 2008, "There are many versions of what happened in the past. I never had a disagreement with Kaprow."

Indeed, the Stockhausen scholar Volker Staebel has mentioned other historical conflicts: " (Actor Jackson) Mac Low stated that (Conductor Alvin) Lucier abandoned the set time frame for the duration of the performance by Paik, which Lucier does not remember. Lucier does remember, however, that Allan Ginsberg wanted to give his performance undisturbed by other activities."

Meanwhile, adding to the turmoil, outside the concert hall, several New York artists, including Henry Flynt, Tony Conrad, and George Maciunas protested against Stockhausen as a "cultural imperialist." Stockhausen had reportedly disparaged jazz at a conference at Harvard in 1958. According to the book, Fluxus Codex, "he said 'jazz (Black Music) is primitive...barbaric...beat and a few simple cords...garbage...' The group declared: 'The First cultural task is publicly to expose and fight the domination of white, european - U.S. Ruling class Art!"

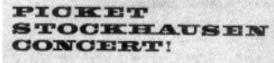
All in all, it was a landmark event in the development of the avant garde in New York and for Fluxus in particular.



Henry Flynt, Ben Vautier, George Maciunas and Takako Saito protesting Originale. Photo by Peter Moore.

Alliances were formed. others were shaken. It also marked an important turning point in the life of Robert Delford Brown.

Turnelay, Suptamber 8, at 8,00 P.M. Junear Hall 13 Ph. Street, past of Savarth Averus).



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### STOCKRAUSEN AND HIS KIND

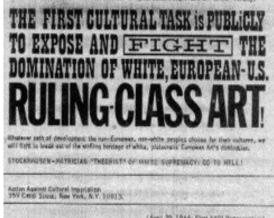
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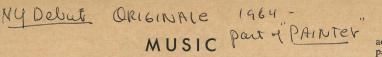


Andy Ditzler's valuable writings for the Karlheinz Stockhausen: Music and Film event in 2003 at Eyedrum, Atlanta, GA can be found at http://andel.home.mindspring.com/stockhausen\_notes.htm

A History Of Spatial Music by Richard Zvonar, PhD is at http://cec.concordia.ca/econtact/Multichannel/spatial music.html

The Volker Staebel site is http://www.straebel.de/praxis/index.html?/praxis/ text/t-musikperf e.htm

Midomi is a music site with insightful writings on individual recordings at http://www.midomi.com/index.php?action=main.album&album id=5afa095d 61b9401a02b50fbe4e15166c&from=artist bio



### **AVANT-GARDE**

Stuffed Bird at 48 Sharp The idea, the director explained, is

"a collage of music with action." The music was electronic, but the action was clearly electrifying as Karlheinz Stockhausen's Originale was presented as the top event of Manhattan's second annual Avant-Garde Festival.

It all started when Cologne's small Theater am Dom commissioned Stockhausen, 36, Germany's leading exponent of nonmusical music, to do a play. Stockhausen had eight friends with artistic talents of sorts—a painter, a poet, an amateur moviemaker, a Korean

MODEL STRIPPING

composer, a newspaper vendor, a street

singer and two musicians. He also had a 94-minute composition called Kon-

*takte*, which blended canned electronic sounds and instrumental music. He wrote a "score" in which his various friends were instructed to perform all or

part of their specialties on a rigid time

schedule coordinated to the composition. Scandalized city fathers,

had made all these goings-on possible

through a subsidy to the arts, tried to

Bearded Beats. No avant-gardist could resist a success like that, and when an English translation became

available this year, the New York fes-tival's sponsors leaped at it. Allan Kap-

row, the inventor of "happenings," was signed up as director, and Allen Gins-

berg, grand old man of the beats, was

persuaded to take on the exacting role

of the poet. The opening at Judson Hall

could not have been more auspicious;

it was picketed by a rival group calling itself "Fluxus," bearing signs: "Fight the rich man's snob art." Fluxus Leader

Henry Flynt favors "compositions" in which a group of people assemble in a dark room while ether is blown through the air vents.

The New York production featured two white hens, a chimpanzee, six fish floating in two bowls suspended from the ceiling, a shapely model stripping to her black lace panties and bra, and a young man who squirted himself all over with shaving lather and then jumped into a tub of water.

Fish in Bowls. As the Kontakte musical score—a mixture of taped airport drones, traffic noise, radio static, mixed in with homemade sounds from drum, piano, saxophone and cello-unwinds, the performers follow carefully drawn stage directions. At 48 minutes sharp, for instance, the percussionist is inactors with the fruit. The hall was packed for all five performances.

Back in Cologne, Stockhausen was unmoved either by the critical jeers or the audience's muffled cheers. "The play gave me an experience I should not want to miss. Everything else is of no interest to me," says he.

Dolly Eve Evervl groups Paul A Al Hir liams. lanetz hit like hattan I Jerry as a pr



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STOCKHAUSEN'S "ORIGINALE" AT JUDSON HALL The apples weren't for eating.

structed to "feed all animals, fish in bowls, birds and/or fowl in cages or wooden crates. A stuffed bird in cage is also fed." The director is told "to enter with an ape or with a pack of dogs on leash." At 68 minutes, the painter is instructed to "begin throwing nails on magnetic surface.

Cellist Charlotte Moorman, who had a concert to herself earlier in the festival in which she played a duet with a mechanized robot equipped with twirling foam-rubber breasts, is told at 36 minutes to "play and sing for four minutes." She can perform anything she likes, so one night she played a Boccherini piece, another night Bach. At 15 minutes, during "a long pause," she is free to do whatever she wants and made dark plans to give Poet Ginsberg a much needed shave, "if he does not resist too much."

Also Beans. Viewer participation was induced by bombarding the audience with leaflets, pink toilet paper, dried beans and rotten green apples. One thoroughly Stockhausened blonde thought apples were for eating, but the rest of the gardists in the audience knew better. They responded by pelting the

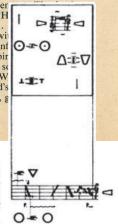


Channing onstage in the second act of

his Broadway musical. Then Louis Arm-

and his publisher is ready to sue Herman

for copyright infringer ning of the refrain, "H hello, Dolly, it's so . says the publisher, wi flower, she's my sunf O--O concedes this, but poir the first notes "the so different directions." W man's Dolly or David's still glowing, crowing, g



Above: Time magazine coverage of Originale. Right: Parts of Stockhausen's score from

TIME, SEPTEMBER 18, 1964

ban the production.

http://www.medienkunstnetz. de/werke/originale/

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Robert Delford Brown recalls being one of the first one to suggest Charlotte Moorman use nudity in her art, something she did for decades after Originale, mostly in her collaborations with Nam June Paik, who was also in Originale. "It was the Avant Garde Festival and I was the one that said Charlotte should go topless," Brown remembered. "She kept saying, 'What could I do?' I said, 'Take your clothes off, Charlotte, take your clothes off.'So she took her clothes off, and she was a topless show. She was asking everybody, 'What could I do? What could I do?' This was in Originale, and she took her clothes off, and she was playing the cello." Moorman was wrapped in semi-transparent gauze.

> judson hall 165 west 57 street

> > pertormances at 8:30 99¢ & 1.99 at door or nseaman 119 w 57 st

september 8, 9, 11, 12, 13

"originale" by karlheinz stockhausen

painter

robert delford brown

second annual new york festival of the avant garde

> august 30 – september 13 1964

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september 8, 9,	11, 12, 13
*"originale" by	stockhausen
director	allen kaprow
pianist	james tenney
percussionist	max neuhaus
conductor	alvin lucier
string player	charlotte moorman
painter goindle	robert delford brown
models ommun	olga kluver lette eisenhauer
film man	robert breer
lighting man	garry harris
sound engineer	david behrman
hat check girl	marje strider
newspaper seller	michael kirby
poet	allen ginsberg

vincent gaeta gloria graves dick higgins jackson mac low peter leventhal

Below: Allen Ginsburg and

Robert Delford Brown in

Stockhausen's Originale.

translated by mary bauermeister and david behrman

actors



# A Review of Karlheinz Stockhausen's Musical Play "Originale"

BY HAROLD C. SCHONBERG

"I thought the most gripping moment, the greatest of the many strokes of genius, came with the entrance of the type dressed as Fantel Xel of the planet Woops of the Urrps galaxy. He was definitely hominoid, and a male hominoid at that. There was no question about his masculinity. Absolutely none.

He got on a ladder and from a height, dropped eggs, paprika and stuff on a sheet of plastic, making a wonderful action painting. In the background was the electronic music of Stockhausen's 'Kontakte.' One reflected that seldom has subject matter and music so matched each other. NEW YORK TIMES, SEPEMBER 9, 1964 seaman in association with moorman presents

HOTOGRAPH: SHUNK-KENDE

thursday septembe	r 3 1964	september 8, 9,	11, 12, 13			
ensemble concert		**"originale" by				
alvin lucier, cond matthew raimondi goldstein, marilyr joseph shor, violi	ductor , malcolm n reiley,	director	allen kaprow			
glick, viola; char 'cello; benjamin p mary barnette, al	lotte moorman, patterson, bass;	pianist	james tenney			
mary kucier, flute morrow, trumpet;	iames lee,	percussionist	max neuhaus			
trombone; max ne percussion; james and david behrma	tenney, piano;	conductor	alvin lucier			
brecht, gloria gra jackson mac low,	ves, joe jones,	string player	charlotte moor			
	paikom still boward zwick	painter	robert delford brown			
*mechanical quartet *exhibit 27 +phi	joe jones george brecht frederic rzewski	models ommur feldman	olga kluver lette eisenhaue			
*milwaukee combination	david behrman	film man	robert breer			
*moving piece jacob glick,viola	philip corner	lighting man	garry harris			
*septet intermission	christian wolff	sound engineer	david behrman			
*composition for pianist and mother		hat check girl	marje strider			
*king of denmark max neuhaus, perc +interiors	robert moran	newspaper seller	michael kirby			
form for piano jacob maxin, piano unfinished	stefan wolpe o	poet	allen ginsberg			
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*etude for piano *11 rigit signs with replica providing	nam june paik		dick higgins jackson mac lo peter leventha			
a schema for an alembic *the long hot	bertram baldwin	translated by mary bauermeister and david behrman				
summer	jackson mac low					
sunday august 30 l	964	monday august	31 1964			

electronic music sound engineers richard maxfield malcolm goldstein james tenney

olga kluver lette eisenhauer

jackson mac low

peter leventhal

charlotte moorman

\*\*music of the stone kaniharu akiyama synchronism #1 harvey sollberger, flute mario davidovsky

> diamorphoses yannis xenakis

james tenney, piano james tenney

\*ergodos II with piano and percussion complement max neuhaus, percussion

\*plus-minus c moorman and robot karlheinz stockhausen ‡

c moorman, t jennings terry jennings

\*\*duet II c moorman, n j paik toshi ichiyanagi

performed in each concert \*entrance/exit music george brecht # \*robot opera nam june paik

\*world premiere \*\*american premiere +new york premiere

<sup>‡</sup>realization by nam june paik <sup>#</sup>realization by james tenney

grateful acknowledgment to

alfred j mapelson and son associated music publishers baldwin pianos carla willyoung carroll musical instrument service c f peters music corporation columbia-princeton electronic center ernst bruecher, koln, germany fluxus publications franco colombo music publisher george pappanikolaou harvey radio company inc judson hall judson memorial church mary bauermeister peter moore

richard maxfield

the once festival, ann arbor, michigan

theodore presser music publishers

tuesday september 1 1964

robert ashley, piano gordon mumma, french horn & piano

assisted by charlotte moorman, 'cello

+casseopiea george cacioppo

maneuvers for small hands r ashley robert ashley

pause

carl spelbring

\*two instruments c moorman, g mumma morton feldman

+duet II christian wolff

\*hornpieces gordon mumma

intermission

+two piano piece III michael von biel

Imusic for 3 bruce wise

+4ptpc george crevoshay

baldwin piano

n seaman in association with

c moorman presents







performances at 8:30 99¢ & 1.99 at door or n seaman 119 w 57 st

wednesday september 2 1964

music of edgard varese

james tenney, conductor malcolm goldstein, sound engineer

vincent cavalli, harvey sollberger, flutes; adrian gnam, oboe; ryo hei nakagawa, bassoon; william lewis, clarinet fred mills, donald stratton, trumpets; philip jameson, trombone; john bergamo, edward burnham, raymond desroches, fred eckler, richard fitz, max neuhaus, paul price, howard zwickler, percussionists

ionisation

octandre

poeme electronique

intermission

density 21.5 harvey sollberger, flute

integrales



graphic display by carolee schneemann rochelle weinstein

### 5

charlotte moorman 'cello

assisted by nam june paik, piano terry jennings, soprano saxophone

\*synergy earle brown

26' 1.1499" for a string player john cage

intermission

\*\*per arco guisseppe chiari

+piece for 'cello and saxophone

## \*electronic symphony richard maxfield tautologos II luc ferrari

\*visage

10 performers

intermission

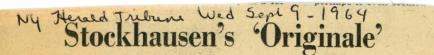
ludlow blues mary barnette, flute robert bayley, alto saxophone philip jameson, trombone malcolm goldstein

luciano berio

\*\*articulations gyorgy ligeti

\*\*trois visages de liege henri pousseur

Production photos Peter Moore



ORIGINALE, a play with music by Korlheinz Stockhausen, translated by David Behrman, directed by Allan Kaprow and presented by David Behr-man, Robert Breer, Lette Eisenhauer, Allan Kaprow, Diga Fober, Arten-meiweisz, Charlotte Moorman, Max Neuhaus, Nam June Paik and James Tenney, all of whom portray them-selves.

### By Alan Rich

Whatever else you can say about Karlheinz Stockhausen's latest musical effort, you have to admit at least that it lives up to its name. "Originale" is what it is called and, brother, that's what you get.

The basic idea itself is not so new, however. Stockhausen's premise is that music is theater: that sounds, sights, actions, designs, colors, words, objects and people can somehow form an artistic unity. That can be traced back just about as far as patience permits back, back, back through some of John Cage's recent expositions, through Wagner's plan for the total

emanating from a variety of sources including tape recorders and an ensemble of live musicians. Much of it is attractive in its special avant-garde way; some of the taped moments in particular build up to passions and tensions in a way that add much stature to this new medium. What Stockhausen has

done in this piece is to carry one step further some ideas about music and space that he has been working with for some time. Instead of merely surrounding his audience with sounds and orchestrating the shape of the auditorium into his musical conception, he has added a new dimension by establishing the framework of an absurd improvised drama. What happens is that the whole troupe of performers-mimes, readers, actors, musicians and animals-personify the musi-

cal patterns and establish (try to, anyhow) a human process at work, with the own way. This only happened but it was a great moment. handing out some rather pathetic excuses for apples, all runty and wormy. The ably, started throwing them back.

I think that Stockhausen has established a valid point. Music as theater is a rather exciting idea to contemplate;

one could go so far as to say Another thing, and this that music without theatermight be straightened out in of some sort (Van Cliburn's future performances of which hair, Leonard Bernstein's there are to be four this leaps) can be a pretty dull week, the actors seemed far experience. too inner-involved to make

But for the idea to work on real communication with the the level on which "Originale" audience. As I understand the is conceived, something has concept, the whole fascinatto happen which was noting rigmarole ought really to present at this first perform- be dumped right in the audiance, and that something is ence's lap. This didn't hapcommunication. The best pen; everybody, performers word to use for the goings- and audience alike, seemed on at Judson Hall on this terribly nervous about the occasion is "messy." The hall whole thing. Instead of itself is not at all suited for participation, there was a this sort of happenstance; general feeling of standone needs something more offishness. That's why the like an arena, where things business with the apples was can be seen as they occur so good; it broke the ice. here and there. As it was, a I haven't really said whethgreat deal of the action was er I liked it or not, and I'm lost to much of the audience.

not going to. It isn't really time yet for this sort of evaluation. Stockhausen is an important and original figure

uation. Stockhausen is an important and original figure in today's creative world, and an effort on his part as extensive and intricate as "Originale" cannot be brushed off lightly. Some of it is just plain silly, and some of it is in excruciatingly bad taste. such as a poem read by Allen animals-personify the musi- Ginsberg that manages to mingle references to John bridge with the audience. Foster Dulles and James Forbe some sort of two-way restal with a general spray audience fighting back in its of scatological sarcasm, and once last evening, however, an extended phallic episode One of the actors started that I simply wish had not happened. Beyond that, you're audience, quite understand- On your own. - Stockhausen's Originale'



# 7 hat