

Howard Kenty

I Exhale (Hamletmaschinemusik)

Presented at the International Computer Music Conference, 2007.

Program Notes:

I Exhale (Hamletmaschinemusik) was created from original music and sound composed under the EVAC! moniker for the University of Minnesota's 2006 Xperimental Theatre performance of Heiner Müller's *Die Hamletmaschine*, directed by Malin Palani, later also playing at the 2007 Minnesota Fringe Festival with the Twisted Roots company. The piece alternates and integrates electronically-manipulated microtonal piano pieces with complex sonic environments, juxtaposing and blending humanistic and mechanical gestures, beauty and repulsiveness, death and life. Like the play, the piece follows a five movement structure, loosely mirroring the play's surreal, anguished, and sometimes violent turns:

I: Hamlet, Cliffside.

II: Arrhythmia of Ophelia.

III: Scherzo; Dance.

IV: Deep Sea. Breast-cancer.

V: Sometimes They Tore Apart a Peasant.

The piano pieces were created through manipulation of samples that were first processed through Tobybear's MicroTuner plugin, generating haunting microtonal textures whose sustained overtones change pitch with each successive note played. Additional sonic elements were created using myriad source materials, including the piano pieces themselves, synthesized textures, sound effect recordings (thanks in part to Ljudo), human voices, and white noise. The source materials were then effected and abstracted using acoustic mirroring, granulation, time/pitch alterations, ring modulation, manual slicing techniques, audio manipulation in MAX/MSP, and more. The entire piece was then assembled, sequenced, and mixed in Cakewalk's SONAR.

- Howard Kenty