

Composing Music Today

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CMT's artistic-educative constellations and its music-making practice

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Abstract. The work of Companhia de Música Teatral includes performances, installations, workshops and training, among others, organized as “artistic-educative constellations” (i.e. different types of experiences that are related in conceptual and creative terms, exploring the boundaries of art, education and human development). Collective instruments and creative approaches (including improvisation and real-time composition) have been developed in several projects in order to allow for collective music making practices. This presentation is based in the direct involvement of the authors as creators/participants/observers in a series of experiences (held in projects such as *Opus Tutti*) and aims to report and reflect about the artistic and educational nature of CMT's work and its implications towards establishing a continuum between community music and educative practices. By presenting an overview of CMT's creative universe, we explain how the concept of “artistic-educative constellations” has emerged and how it continues inspiring our work.

Keywords: community music; educative practice; artistic and educative constellations; Companhia de Música Teatral; *Opus Tutti*.

Introduction

Companhia de Música Teatral (CMT) develops a regular activity since 1998. It was constituted with the intention of developing projects within the aesthetic designation of “scenic music” / “music theatre” and privileges Music as a starting point for interaction between various techniques, languages and possibilities for artistic communication. CMT has developed a pioneering work, articulating academic research, artistic production, technological creation, community involvement and the dissemination of the importance of musical experience and art in general on human and social development. CMT's work has been presented in various formats as shows, workshops, medium and long duration projects, books, CDs, DVDs, and has been subject of investigation and publication on the academic field. With this article we intend to communicate the idea of “development of artistic educative constellations” as an aggregating concept for CMT's actual and future activity. Section 2 describes the context of CMT's existence and its scope, focusing on two background experiences that led to the later conceptual organization referred to as “constellation”: the creation and development of the Educational Service of Casa da Música program between 2006-2010, and the project *Opus Tutti* (2011-2014). Section 3 refers to the concept of constellation and its development within CMT. Section 4 presents CMT's current “universe layout”, defining its objects and constellations, and exemplifying their usage in

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Abstract:

What does composing music mean today? What is the role of the composer in today's musical world? Can we

continue to talk about “composing music” in every situation of musical creation? Or should we consider recourse to other expressions? What is the composition process in the case of museum exhibitions, or installations? Can a sound artist be considered a composer of music? Is the creation of sound art a form of musical composition? Furthermore, can real-time coding or free improvisation be considered forms of instantaneous musical composition? In a world where technological means make musical creation accessible to all, what is the role of the “traditional composer”?

Music is today more diverse than ever before. The range of genres, practices, techniques and technologies, forms of dissemination and reception have changed the way in which music is composed. Music is now almost omnipresent in our society spanning concert halls, museums, digital media, as well as public and private spaces. For each of these listening situations, someone conceives and composes the music, creating the sound and organizing the musical discourse through means of a diversity of approaches, knowledge and technologies. All of these means are crucial given their influences over the final outputs.

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