

# **B2C (BACH2CAGE)**

## **an art process, an educational skill**

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### **ABSTRACT**

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#### ***Summary***

*Using different art forms and new technologies of communication and information – Bach2Cage - is an original spectacle that melds music with theatre, multimedia and digital art. The participant in this process develops a new form of education and music, (besides other forms of art) as the basis of their studies and personal development.*

*This poster shows how new technologies, musical composition and several kinds of art forms conceive a new form of art that joins numerous actions, musical pieces and aesthetics. On the other hand, it conceives a new educational skill that provides new forms of education and personal development.*

#### **1. Introduction**

The use of different art forms on Bach2Cage conceive an original spectacle where different domains of knowledge, communication and art, combine educational procedures that develop a new form of education.

It is a project that includes art and technologies. It consists of a series of scenarios with music of Bach (1685-1750) and Cage (1912-1992), transformed by a new appraisal of this material. Sounds of Jazz, Bossa Nova, Salsa, Rock and Portuguese Traditional Music and Electronic Music are included. It is a multicultural project that combines music, performing and multimedia. It is a procedure that leads the performers to a continuous practice of research, discussion and creation. Without preliminary musical or visual aesthetics concepts, it is a continuous work that changes in every performance.

From the beginning, the music of these two majors' composers - Bach and Cage - is the main material for these performances. Other ideas happen with the developing of the different stages of these versions of the project.

## 2. Multimedia Spectacles

Visual arts, multimedia and performing arts try to attract the public to the spectacle. More than a performance, this multimedia spectacle is a process that may not be taken on the acceptance and following of certain aesthetic orientations that are usually associated with the word experimental, but a constant evolution of many characteristics that show us a continuous process that depends on the initial conditions. It is a complex procedure that revolves around a collection of visual, theatrical and musical actions that are apparently in constant mutation.

The initial idea of Bach2Cage is the artistic universe of these composers. Nevertheless, the authors don't want that the performers – students, professors and some members of the audience - play rigorously what they compose. They want that performers re-construct and re-interpret, musically and theatrically, those authors and expand some original ideas. In this sense, they introduce new concepts and technologies according to the human element. The intervenient opens musical elements to other art forms combining rigor with improvisation.

This multimedia spectacle is a new reading of a specific musical material. We notice often a new combination and collage of materials, like those present in Readings, a piece that combines a recording of John Cage's Reading for the 2nd time through Finnegans Wake with American tune by Paul Simon. Sometimes, this *modus operandi* conceives another stylistically different musical sound like those that we can hear in Ténis. In this piece, Bach's Aria from Suite in D is transformed in a musical work that reminds us of the rock from the 70's and 80's. On the other hand, Tango Perpetuo, keeps in mind a shift that places Bach's music in a sonorous world that reminds us of the sound of Piazzolla. Sometimes, Bach or Cage's writings are followed quite closely as in Aria from the Goldberg Variations, Second Construction or the four short pieces of Living Room. In this case, Cage doesn't indicate the instrumentation and transfers to the performer some aspects of the artistic creation. This action becomes a process that is not exclusive of the composer.

We think that B2C is an excellent exercise in musical re-composition; for example, Bossa Bem Temperada give us a different view of Bach's music, with some collages of Gilberto's, Jobim's, Veloso's or Regina's music. Arte do Fado is a confluence of The Art of Fuge, Musikalisches Opfer and The Well-tempered Clavier that includes the Prelude in B flat minor with some material from Cage's Second Construction and some references to Kustorica. An important moment of B2C is at the beginning of the spectacle - four minutes and thirty three seconds of darkness and silence - an allusion to Cage's 4'33''.

In some cases references are not obvious. On the final work, certain concepts and sonorities, melodic, rhythmic and harmonic elements lead us to a more complex musical discourse. The connection and interaction between music, theatre, multimedia, digital and visual arts develops an increasing of intensity and complexity, expanding some ideas about musical proceedings. It becomes an exercise of musical composition and improvisation and definitely an important educational skill.

### **3. Conclusion**

Multimedia spectacles connect dissimilar materials. Different cultures, diverse knowledge and ideas converge with new technologies and meanings to create a different area of significance.

The university, a place where numerous students, cultures and knowledge converge, lead us to experimental art forms. The knowledge, the study and the creation are a complex procedure of education that requires appropriate environment and technology.

Bach2Cage provide us with various ideas about musical proceedings and musical creation and develops an innovating exercise of musical composition and improvisation.

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