

### **István Zelenka**

(\* July 30, 1936 in Budapest) is Suisse composer and performer of Hungarian and Austrian descent.

Already dealt intensively with music as a child. 1956 he emigrated to Vienna and continued his musical studies (Karl Schiske and Hans Jelinek). 1960 he became Austrian citizen. 1962 Zelenka was sound mixer and artistic director in the record industry in Geneva. 1966 he married Kati. 1976 he was citizen in Switzerland.

1976–2001 Zelenka was manager and responsible for radio broadcasts of progressive music (Radio Suisse Romande). 1981–2001 he was lecturer at *Conservatoire de musique de Genève*. 1995 Zelenka began to work as a performer. Since 2000 he deals with paintings created on computer. 2002 first exhibitions followed.

“... there are no uninteresting objects or things in the world as long as there is an artist, who – in view of these objects or things – opens his eyes wide and looks at these objects or things with the startled look of a simple-minded.”

– ISTVÁN ZELENKA (ACCORDING TO ABRAM TERTZ: *EINE STIMME IM CHOR*)

### **Mark So**

born June 14, 1978 in Syracuse (NY) is an American experimental composer and musician (mainly pianist) active in Los Angeles, CA. His works, numbering over 700 (including a group of about 300 concerning poems of John Ashbery), are mostly text-based and influenced by New York School aesthetics, Fluxus and the Wandelweiser composers collective.

His work has been described as using disparate media to explore ordinary situations in various open frames of perception and action, typically proceeding through simple methods of recording/transcription/reading, as well as changing experiences of silence. As critic Petra Hedler writes: "Mark So strongly embraces the phenomenon of the just barely audible, taking up a broad palette of sound-producing devices (including glasses, stones)."

On July 10, 2006, So collaborated with composer James Orsher, artist Michael Parker of Routes and Methods and 16 area musicians to bring about a 3-hour performance of James Tenney's *In a large, open space* (1994) at the 40,000-square-foot (3,700 m<sup>2</sup>) Cold Storage art facility in downtown Los Angeles. So gave the first performance of Christian Wolff's *Small*

*Preludes* (2008-9) at CalArts (California Institute of the Arts) on October 24, 2009.

A graduate of Pomona College (BA 2000) and the California Institute of the Arts (MFA 2006), So's primary composition teachers were Michael Pisaro, Thomas Flaherty and Annetta Kaplan.

### **Eva-Maria Houben**

(born 1955) studied Music Education at Folkwang-Musikhochschule Essen and the organ with Gisbert Schneider. Following her exams she taught both German and Music Education at Secondary School. She received her doctorate and postdoctoral lecturing qualification in musicology and was called for lectures at Gerhard-Mercator-Universität Duisburg and Robert-Schumann-Hochschule Düsseldorf. Since 1993 Professor Houben has been lecturing at Dortmund University's "Institut für Musik und Musikwissenschaft", with both music theory and contemporary music as her focus. Up to now many books were published, concerning contemporary music, contemporary composers and traditional music, listened to with 'new ears'.

As she is related to the "wandelweiser-group" of composers, her compositions are published by "edition wandelweiser", Haan. Her list of compositions up to now includes works for the organ, piano, flute(s), recorder(s), clarinet, horn, trombone, saxophone, violin, viola, violoncello and double bass solo, tromba marina, guitar, accordion, harp, percussion, compositions for duo, trio, quartet, quintet, sextet, ensembles with determined and variable instruments, works for voice solo, for voice and piano, voice and ensemble, voice and orchestra, orchestra compositions and works for choir.

Many publications to contemporary music (for example Adriana Hölszky, Violeta Dinescu, Hans-Joachim Hespos, wandelweiser composers [MusikDenken, Antoine Beuger, Juerg Frey]).

2013 Eva-Maria Houben founded an own label: diafani.