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## **ORB\_IT**

**ORB\_IT** is the title of a sort of “World Fanfare” to be created in a collective process conducted in partnership between Switzerland and the world. **ORB\_IT** will consist of 168 brief, 30-second fanfares composed by 28 composers from Switzerland and 56 composers from all over the world; every participating composer will therefore be writing two 30-second fanfares. The fanfares may consist of quotations or extracts of existing works by the composers, arranged for one of the selected instruments. On each of the 28 days preceding the *World New Music Days*, six of these fanfares will be performed at specially selected outdoor sites all over Switzerland. Recorded live, these performances will subsequently be broadcast over 28 loudspeakers in a sound installation that will be open in Lucerne throughout the WNMD. Works from all over the world and from Switzerland will merge with the sounds of 28 specific Swiss biotopes and draw traces of the musical thoughts of the 84 participating composers into the sounds of the environment.

### **Concept:**

A map of the world is superimposed on a map of Switzerland, so that each of the five continents – Africa, America, Asia, Australia and Europe – corresponds to one region of Switzerland. 56 countries apart from Switzerland are involved in the project. (48 are members or associate members of the ISCM.). These countries are placed in the region allocated to their continent. 28 “trios” of three composers are then formed, each featuring a Swiss composer from a region plus a composer from each of two nearby countries.

A brass instrument is allocated to each continent and region.

Africa: trumpet  
America: saxophone  
Asia: trombone  
Australia: tuba  
Europe: french horn

Every composer writes or arranges two 30-second solo fanfares for the instrument allocated to his/her continent or region.

### **28 Concerts**

Every participating “trio” of composers will be allocated a characteristic sound environment in their region as a performance venue.

For 28 days, from 4 October to 2 November 2004, the project will move from place to place for performances of the six fanfares written for the specific venue. Played at six predetermined times between 5 and 7 a.m., the pieces will be heard under very special concert conditions: the sound of the local environment will play a principal role, the fanfares punctuating it in such a way as to draw the public’s attention to the distinctive arrangement and qualities of the sonic environment. The unusually early start of the concerts has been chosen to highlight the environment, for the sound of a biotope waking up in the morning is among the most beautiful and characteristic sonic moments of the day.

### **Installation:**

Each of the 28 concerts will be recorded digitally from start to finish.

A digitally processed, 28-minute “time lapse” version of each of these recordings will be prepared in the studio. With the help of gentle cross-fades, 2-minute excerpts of the environmental sound complete with fanfares will be sequenced in the correct chronological order.

Time periods:

06:59 – 07:02 08:04 – 08:06

07:11 – 07:13 08:12 – 08:14

07:20 – 07:22 08:22 – 08:24

07:29 – 07:31 08:31 – 08:33

07:38 – 07:40 08:40 – 08:42

07:47 – 07:49 08:49 – 08:51

07:56 – 07:58 08:58 – 09:01

Each of the 168 fanfares will sound during one of these periods of time. The aim of the montage is to create a geography of sound and time characteristic of the specific site. Because of the early hour of the performance, the fanfares will merge with the characteristic sounds of the waking local biotope.

In a large, comparatively dark, neutral space 28 loudspeakers will be set up to match the geography of the regions. Each loudspeaker will represent a different Swiss site at which fanfares were performed. The 28 mono tracks will be played simultaneously (synchronously) by two coupled 16-track hard-disk recorders. Performances of ORBIT begin when all the bells in the towers audible on the recordings strike seven and end when they strike nine.

The public can move freely through the installation.

The 168 fanfares from all over the world and from Switzerland will merge with the overall sound of "biotope Switzerland" at a time of day typified by unmistakable sounds. The world and Switzerland will meet in a "hymn to the world". The path visitors take through the installations will determine the local characteristics of the fanfare and environmental sounds they hear.

The installation in Lucerne will be open to the public throughout the WNMD.

#### **Documentation:**

When the festival is over, two special circuits through the installation will be mixed in stereo in the studio. The resulting CD will be presented to all the participating countries, all the participating composers and the libraries of all the participating venues. The event will be documented photographically as well. All participating local libraries will also receive an individual recording of "their" track with "their" six fanfares as a token of thanks to the local authorities and population for their cooperation and as a gift to the place in return for its gift of local sounds.

**Alfred Zimmerlin**, born 1955, studied composition, musicology and ethnomusicology in Zurich, Paris and Berlin. Works as a composer and improviser (violoncello) and in both fields has earned recognition throughout Europe. He has got several awards, amongst them the Music Prizes of the C. F. Meyer-Foundation, the City of Zurich, the Aargauisches Kuratorium. 2001 Pro Helvetia-residency in Cairo/Egypt. He is a member of the improvising trio and composers' collective **KARL ein KARL**, the trio **The Great Musaurian Songbook**, a trio with Robert Dick and the German Pianist Uli Johannes Kieckbusch and has recorded numerous CD's with **KARL ein KARL**, Claudia Ulla Binder and **The Great Musaurian Songbook**, Tony Oxley, Radu Malfatti, the Trio Gallio-Ostrowski-Zimmerlin, !ROJO! and many others. His compositions are performed in Europe and the USA and have been recorded as well. The main publisher of Alfred Zimmerlin is Edition Mikro, Timescraper Music, ([www.timescraper.de](http://www.timescraper.de)). See also [www.musicedition.ch](http://www.musicedition.ch).