

Rafael Nassif (1984-)



(photo by Julio Kohl 2013)

Brazilian composer based in Europe, whose work concentrates on timbric and spatial aspects. He was initially a self-taught composer in Cataguases, where he grew up, and at the age of 15 gave a piano recital of his own compositions. In his teenage years he studied composition informally with Almeida Prado and Marlos Nobre. Later Nassif received his Bachelor's degree in Composition at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (2003-7), studied at the Federal University of Bahia on an exchange program in 2006, and received his Master's degree from the State University of Music and Performing Arts of Stuttgart (2009-12, class of Caspar Johannes Walter; seminars on Sonology with Oliver Schneller and Marco Stroppa); at the same University he concluded in 2014 with honor the *Konzertexamen* in Composition, last musical degree in Germany. He also carried out studies in the Alexander Technique (and the musical phenomenon, etc.) with Ilan Sebastian Grabe, a former pupil of Celibidache. Master-classes at international festivals include among others Alvin Lucier, Christian Wolff, Kaija Saariaho, Beat Furrer, George Aperghis and Georg Friedrich Haas.

Nassif's music has been played and recorded worldwide; in 2013 his portrait CD *musica d'incanto* was published in Brazil. He has also received various awards for his works, among them first prizes in events such as the *Irino Prize* 2011 (Tokyo) and the *BMI Student Composer Awards* 2009 (NY), as well as commissions (among others from the Philharmonic Orchestra of Minas Gerais, *CordaNova* guitar quartet, *ensemble cross.art*, *SWR-Vokalensemble*). In Germany he has received in 2013 the *Karl-Sczuka-Förderpreis* on the *SWR-Donauessinger Musiktage*; in 2014 a composer's fellowship from the *BW-Kunststiftung* and from the *Akademie der Künste*-Berlin. In 2015 he has obtained the *Kunstpreis Berlin* in the AdK and for the second time the *Irino Prize* (for *musica d'incanto*).

Nassif is active in the multiple capacities of composer, interpreter/performer (piano, ad-hoc) and curator/organizer of concerts. In partnership with several musicians, he has organized and participated in an extensive number of concerts in the cities where he has resided, such as the contemporary music series *eu gostaria de ouvir* (Belo Horizonte, 2008-12). His varied parallel interests (Experimental Art, Philosophy, Meditation, Pranayama and others) reverberate in his recent works.

...situating music in its exact-space-in-time seems to me to be the most musical activity of the composer, but this task is not only a privilege of the artists, in the same way that music does not belong to those that write it: through the composer, music merely/precisely "be-comes...it-self"; such as it is...
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