

Events (1986, 1991)

Events for wind ensemble, piano en tam-tam (Igor Stravinsky in memoriam)

In 1986 Jan Rokus van Roosendael wrote *Events*, a composition for piano, based on the composition techniques of Stravinsky's *Movements*. When the Nederlands Blazers Ensemble asked the young Dutchman (Zwijndrecht, 1960) to write a work with the same instrumental forces of Stravinsky's Concerto for Piano and Wind Instruments he did not feel inclined to react according to the actual content of this Neo-Classic work. He chose for a new elaboration of *Events* in the same way that Stravinsky enjoyed developing material that continued to intrigue him. *Movements* is considered one of Stravinsky's most hermetic works, which is due to the enormous concentration of the material. This work is made up of five short 'movements', wherein Stravinsky showed that serial music had also caught a hold on him: apart from pitch the elements of duration and orchestration are also ordered in rows. Each small part is determined by one particular instrumental timbre. Typical of Stravinsky is that even such a thoroughly carried out serial music has subtle tonal implications.

Events for Piano, Tam Tam and Wind Instruments has eight movements each with a specific characteristic use of the instruments. Over the course of the small sections there is a steady, but not linear, development in the contribution of the piano, the use of registers, the instrumental voices, the dynamic and the unisons. The composer: "*Events*consists of a series of extremely detailed autonomous musical events, which are related on a higher level to each other. At the end of the composition the events of the beginning are repeated in the highest register of the piano. Moreover the final chord is composed of all the white keys, which is a reference to Stravinsky's diatonic way of composing. After the emancipation of the separate parameters in the begin of this century, *Events* deals with.....the emancipation of the events in themselves."

Source: Information VARA Matinee on free Saturday - Premiere-series
(7 March 1992 - premiere)

Performers: Nederlands Wind Ensemble and Ivo Janssen (piano)