Conference proposal

Four years after the practice - based research
"From Singer to Reflective Practitioner: Performing and Composing in a Multimedia Environment"
by Aleksandra Popovska
SS. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje
Faculty of Music – Skopje, Macedonia

EPARM Conference, Graz, 2015
(Re-)processing Research: musical practice as both source and
target domain for artistic research in music

Content

In 2010 I successfully obtained my Master of Philosophy degree from Portsmouth University
(collaboration with Utrecht School) and wrote the thesis "From Singer to Reflective Practitioner:
Performing and Composing in a Multimedia Environment". It was a practice based research
including three case studies (collaborations) in which I have taken the roles of performer, composer
and project designer. I started working on these case studies with the question how to improve my
own practice? This led to the identification of problems related with making a live media
performance, as well as prompting discussions about the types of knowledge necessary for
producing a work of art which includes more than one medium.
In order to evaluate my projects I took into consideration:

- compositional concerns: compositional and pre-compositional processes for interactive live performance,

- logistic concerns: equipment, rehearsing,

- design concerns: concerning the process of designing the performance systems,

- collaborative concerns: concerning efficiency, coherence of interaction, playing roles, improvisation and developing intuition and awareness.

In my presentation I would like to talk about how this research has enhanced my own identity as
performer, composer and designer, as well as how it has shaped my work in the last four years. An
important theme will be the living concept of *experimental learning* (Kolb) through
multidimensional reflection: as a singer who is a composer, as a composer who is a researcher, as a
student who has been a teacher, as an artist who has lived in an imaginative world creating her
works, and as a researcher dealing with institutional policy and educational change.

Relation to the conference questions

I hope that my experience as a musician, having passed through both classical and technology-
based educational systems and participating in them in different roles – as performer, concept
designer, composer, producer and teacher – will be useful for creative people coming from the
conservatory and wanting to work in the field of multimedia performance.

The position of a teacher (2012) and coordinator of a program in Popular music (2013) at the Music

Academy in Skopje allows me to make a comparison between Macedonia and Holland, as well as give me the opportunity to implement my findings:

- *as an artist* The forms I am using have drastically changed. I gained many new tools which allow creating different experiences for the audience (live electronics, usage of video, interaction, etc). I gained knowledge about the new media repertoire which changed the nature of my work, which originally was purely song related.

 - *as a teacher* I am using new tools for teaching voice/music, computer software for recording/processing spectral analysis of voice; working with a visual artist gave me a new vocabulary to use when "describing" voice, new possible contexts where voice can play a role, such as visual poems, installations, etc.