

Konform-Kontraform, Szene für 8 Instruments (1988)

Konform-Kontraform was composed in 1988 as a commission for the New Music Group “Hanns Eisler” and was premiered in Spring 1990 in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the ensemble at the Witten Tage der Neuen Kammermusik. **Konform-Kontraform** was also performed by the New Music Group “Hanns Eisler” in a WDR production in Autumn 1990.

The title and the subtitle (Scenes for 8 Instruments) evoke a role play; the inclusion of theatrical and dramaturgical aspects in the composition, within its individual structures.

Konform-Kontraform is quasi a concerto for oboe and two groups. The ensemble of eight instruments is split, separated into two differently operating groups using differing structures.

The first group is formed from the trombone, timpani, and double bass; the second from the cor anglais, viola, cello and piano. The oboe “falls between two stools”.

The, for the most part, “stuck fast” structures of both groups are set against the strong individuality and freedom of the oboe; this results in conflict, friction and tensions which are not resolved - the oboe distances itself both musically and scenically more and more from both groups.

Bernd Franke