

**Dust III** (2018-21) – 65'

A spatial version for several percussion players

First performance by Christian Dierstein, Dirk Rothbrust and participants of the Darmstadt Percussion Studio at the Darmstadt Summer Course in 2021.

**Dust** (2017/2018) was initially a solo work of a special kind - "solo for two, each to their own".

It was written as an homage to Christian Dierstein and Dirk Rothbrust, with whom I have worked intensively over many years and for whom I wrote the double concerto **void** (2013/14).

Each percussionist creates their own version out of eight composed modules, employing their own instruments and creating an individual organization of the modules. Spatial and choreographic elements are also central to the interpretive process and the performance.

A duo version, **Dust II** (2017-20), was first performed by Dirk Rothbrust and Christian Dierstein at the Berlin Festspiele 2020 at the Berlin Philharmonie.

For the preparation of **Dust III** I joined Christian Dierstein and Dirk Rothbrust, who had initially worked with the participants of the Percussion Studio of the Darmstadt Summer Course, to produce an ensemble version for 8 players, with performers spatially distributed around the audience.

This new version of the Dust series was then performed at the closing concert of the Darmstadt Summer Course in 2021.

**dust** / dʌst / n.

A fine, dry powder of tiny particles of waste matter or earth.

A film of dust is like a membrane, covering or layering the body or thing, on the ground, on surfaces or carried in the air.

The dust of the earth is a place of burial.

Dust within a room is composed mostly of dead skin, a powder of mortal remains.

"...not a sound only the old breath and the leaves turning and then suddenly this dust whole place suddenly full of dust when you opened your eyes from floor to ceiling nothing only dust and not a sound only what was it it said...come and gone in no time gone in no time."

*That Time, Samuel Beckett*

"...all these words, all these strangers, this dust of words, with no ground for their settling, no sky for their dispersing, coming together to say, fleeing one another to say, that I am they, all of them, those things that merge, those that part, those that never meet, and nothing else, yes, something else,...a wordless thing in an empty space..."

*The Unnameable, Samuel Beckett*

Inside, withheld, unbreathed,  
Nether, undisclosed.

Souffle, vapour, ghost,  
hauch and dust.

Absent, silent, void  
Naught beside.

Either, neither, sole,  
Unified.  
RS

