

WITTWULF Y MALIK

an outstanding cellist and composer

Since the 1960's Wittwulf Y Malik has been one of the leading names in a new style of cello playing in Europe. He started experimenting when he studied the classical cello in the conservatory classes of Arthur Troester and Andre Navarra. He has developed his solo cello recitals to the field of new music and with time became absorbed with creating his own music.

His musical ideas seem to come out of an earthy and bodily space, aeons before our cultural history and tradition. At the same time they are also very abstract and spiritual like a music of a far-off future, when, for example, a space of crystal and aetheric tone-particles or a broad field of harmonics appears and streams with a very long breath.

Besides his work with the cello he experimented with tape-music combining natural and technical sounds, among others his major composition "The Four Elements" (1989) for tape, harp, cello, drums and gongs. He has also worked with electronics, synthesizers and computer, for example, in his works "Tre Canti" (1986) and "Schlachtmusik" (1990).

It is very important for Wittwulf Y Malik to open his musical activities to the other medias and to other kinds of expression, incorporating space, light, movement and language as, for example, his work with Gertrude Stein's text "The Making of Americans" (1987). He also cooperates with other artists - dancers, actors, writers, painters and filmmakers.

Wittwulf Y Malik has always been involved in working with the polar moments of improvisation and composition as they appear in magnetic and antagonistic tension. At times he improvises freely, filling the space with his musical intuition, at other times he plays set pieces and occasionally he uses both modes in different combinations and textures.

His musical ideas have been fully accepted and he has received a number of grants and awards in Germany, Italy and Sweden. He has taught at various universities and toured with his music in nearly every European country, playing at major festivals. He has also been to the United States and Canada to share his artistic concepts and virtuosity as a cellist.

The centre of Wittwulf Y Malik's work is the cello. It is his deepest and longest love and the passion can be heard in every sound he generates.

Thomas Christen, London, May 1997