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Press and Public Relations Forum Neues Musiktheater

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In collaboration with the ISCM World New Music Festival 2006

German Premiere

AN INDEX OF METALS

Video-Opera by Fausto Romitelli
for Soprano, Ensemble, Multi Video Projections and Electronics

Cooperation with musikFabrik

July 15, 2006, 9.30 p.m.

additional performances: **July 16, 2006, 6 p.m.**

and July 17, 19, 20 2006, 8 p.m.

Introduction 45 mins. before the performance

Concept: Fausto Romitelli, Paolo Pachini / Music: Fausto Romitelli / Text: Kenka Lekovich / Video: Paolo Pachini, Léonardo Romoli

Soprano: Barbara Hannigan / Conductor: André de Ridder / Sound Design: Claire Gallagher, Melvyn Poore, musikFabrik

Ensemble: musikFabrik

Opera as an Experience of Total Perception

On the occasion of the ISCM World New Music Festival 2006 the Forum Neues Musiktheater, in cooperation with the ensemble musikFabrik, is presenting the German premiere of the video opera *An Index of Metals* by the Italian composer Fausto Romitelli, who died young. *An Index of Metals* is violent, abstract tale that combines an rite of initiation by immersion and a trance of light and sound: "The goal is to transform the worldly form of opera into an experience of total perception in which the viewers submerge into a glowing material that is both luminous and full of sound, a magma of flowing sounds, forms, and colors, with no story other than that of hypnosis, obsession, and

trance,” as Romitelli described his work. With its exaggerated depiction of the senses and pleasure, *An Index of Metals* aims to take possession of the body.

Romitelli attempted to compose sound visual and film images acoustically only to subject both to a computer-assisted transformation. This was preceded by a period of research in which he adapted his tools to capture and process the elements of both worlds. The experiments and the production of electroacoustic music and videos were performed by a small group of artists and technicians at the Centre du Fresnoy, comprising Leonardo Romoli (video), Paolo Pacchini (computer music, video and production management), and Fausto Romitelli (composer). The same group was responsible for the spatial aspects of the work and produced the video, sound, and light at performances.

Fausto Romitelli was born in Gorizia in 1963 and received his degree in composition from the Conservatorio di Musica Giuseppe Verdi in Milan. In 1991 he moved to Paris to learn new technologies at IRCAM. From 1993 to 1995 he worked there as a *compositeur en recherche*. Romitelli did his research work outside the cultivated avant-garde; his music was regularly performed by the best ensembles on international concert stages. A serious illness ended the life of the forty-one-year-old on June 27, 2004, in Milan.

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Wir stiften Zukunft

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