



ALL-EIN-SEIN

Interconnected Solitude

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O/Modernt and the Goethe-Institut Schweden are delighted to join forces to create a musical and literary response to the pandemic, reflecting on solitude and togetherness. One musician, one actor and one listener will take part in an encounter charged with unique intimacy. The thematically linked series of 1:1 performances and readings invite you to rediscover the interconnected oneness of musical and literary being:

ALL-EIN-SEIN alone, yet together.

The 1:1 performances and readings will be complemented by two further concerts for a larger audience at the Goethe-Institut early in 2021, for which the repertoire will be chosen in response to *Wer Allein Ist*, the wonderfully evocative poem by Gottfried Benn, written in 1936.

*Wer allein ist, ist auch im Geheimnis,
immer steht er in der Bilder Flut,
ihrer Zeugung, ihrer Keimnis,
selbst die Schatten tragen ihre Glut.*

Being alone is also being in a secret,
in a flood of images,
in their conception, their generation,
where even the shadows carry their glow.

(trans. Jonathan Davis)

With concert life in a state of suspended animation,
ALL-EIN-SEIN revives real-life cultural experience
with a magical form of shared live music.



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EVEN THE SHADOWS

Reflections on Connectedness

Hugo Ticciati

WE ARE LIVING through surreal times, in which life as we used to know it – a state of being that we never really questioned – is throwing up challenge after challenge, both on a local and a global scale. Those of us fortunate enough to have enjoyed good health have been gifted the time and space to encounter ourselves in renewed intimacy; an encounter accentuated through social distancing. Coming face to face with our aloneness, we have been offered precious insights into the meaning of **solitude** and **distance**, the themes for the first pairings of 1:1 intersections.

Next, come **intimacy** and **patience**, approaching slowly, hand in hand. For, as one surrenders to this space of inwardness, a tide of impressions, emotions, thoughts and memories rises to consciousness. If we can resist the urge to cling onto these sensations, and rather let them arise and pass, we gradually descend into the ground of our being and develop a renewed sense of self. But this deepening intimacy with our own selves requires patience. As things around us slow down, we inevitably begin to look within, finding that we have the space to allow things to arise more freely and spontaneously, without being continually distracted by the noisy world of activity. Patience and silence enrich our perceptions so that a moment of self-expression can seem self-sufficient. In this way patience makes us more intimate with our own being.

The pandemic has been a true teacher in the art of patience. At the beginning, as winter gave way to early spring, we felt that just a few weeks of what we were going through was a long time. Eight or nine months later, we have gained a new perspective on time. Yes, we are looking forward to a moment when the plenitude of life reasserts itself. But do we any longer believe that that means a return to what we used to think of as normal? In the meantime, all we can do is embrace the unknown of time and try to discover what it can teach us.

Two vital lessons concern **presence** and **interconnection**, the next themes in our 1:1 series. Learning to be self-intimate (if I can coin that phrase), we substantiate our presence, as we gain a growing sense of what it is to be. Such 'is-ness' is surprisingly elusive when you consider that the fact of our being is all that we truly have, and yet it is the soil in which we take root and flourish. As we realise this presence, we begin to understand that distance and solitude are not things in themselves, but feelings that arise in a space of awareness that has always been there, whether we have known it or not. Most importantly, it's a shared space because it connects us as individuals with everyone. That's why dropping into our ground of being opens up an unbounded, interconnected space of awareness.

Nature provides us with a wonderful illustration of the infinite circle that encompasses solitude and interconnected togetherness. Consider an ancient tree in a forest that stands, proudly singular, at a well-judged distance from other trees. Growing sometimes for several hundred years, the tree is a symbol of patience and the glory of self-intimacy, but it also cultivates a special closeness to its immediate surroundings. Buffeted by storms, scorched by the sun and drenched with rain, over many years the ancient tree effortlessly substantiates its real presence and self-possession.

Beneath the ground, however, an unseen fungal network hums with life as neighbouring trees share water and nutrients, and (as scientists have shown) communicate with each other, sending signals about drought and disease, which bind them together in a 'wood-wide web'. And from the connected depths of the soil, the ancient tree reaches up to the sky, joining heaven and earth in a living cycle of photosynthesis, growth and rejuvenation. We might say of the tree what Gottfried Benn says of the 'flood of images' in the superb poem that provides inspiration for our concert series: 'in their conception, their generation – where even the shadows carry their glow.' That radiance, I think, is the light that shines in every living being, in solitude and in connected togetherness.



**SOLITUDE
DISTANCE
PATIENCE**

**INTIMACY
PRESENCE
INTERCONNECTION**

SOLITUDE

*Love consists in this, that two solitudes
protect and touch and greet each other.*

Rainer Maria Rilke



20 November

1600 – 1630

1615 – 1630

1630 – 1700

1700 – 1730

1715 – 1745

1730 – 1800

Ellen Nisbeth viola

Fredrik Paulsson violin & viola

Robert Fux reader



DISTANCE

The sweetest melodies are those that are by distance made more sweet.

William Wordsworth



20 November

1800 – 1830

1815 – 1830

1830 – 1900

1900 – 1930

1915 – 1945

1930 – 2000

Svante Henryson cello

Joel Henryson electric bass

Robert Fux reader



PATIENCE

*Have patience with everything that remains
unsolved in your heart. Try to love the questions
themselves, like locked rooms and like books
written in a foreign language.*

Rainer Maria Rilke



27 November

1600 – 1630

1615 – 1630

1630 – 1700

1700 – 1730

1715 – 1745

1730 – 1800

Cecile Løken Hesselberg flute

Jonathan Anstett flute

Ann-Sofie Rase reader



INTIMACY

To be intimate is to feel the silence, the space that everything is happening in.

Adyashanti

27 November

1800 – 1830

1815 – 1830

1830 – 1900

1900 – 1930

1915 – 1945

1930 – 2000

Anders Paulsson soprano saxophone

Theo Hillborg soprano saxophone

Johan Holmberg reader



PRESENCE

*Nothing was, nothing will be; everything is,
everything has being and presence.*

Herman Hesse



4 December

1600 – 1630

1615 – 1630

1630 – 1700

1700 – 1730

1715 – 1745

1730 – 1800

Mårten Falk guitar

Jonathan Fridliand guitar

Anders Johannisson reader



INTERCONNECTION

Everything is alive, everything is interconnected.

Cicero

4 December

1800 – 1830

1815 – 1830

1830 – 1900

1900 – 1930

1915 – 1945

1930 – 2000

Malin Broman violin

Maya Broman Crawford-Phillips violin

Anders Johannisson reader



THE PHOTOGRAPHER AND LONELINESS

Jose Pesquero

LONELINESS AND DISTANCE: there are many times when nature photographers need to distance themselves from their usual environments to seek out a particular species or emblematic place. We have to get away, physically and mentally. Sometimes this is because we have to try to think like a sought-after species, interpreting its behaviour and identifying ourselves with it. At others, we have to isolate ourselves emotionally, using all our senses to channel a moment of solitude so as not to miss the opportunity to capture the best light in front of the most beautiful of landscapes.

The life of a nature photographer is one of necessary and seemingly eternal solitude, with long periods of waiting for fleeting instants in which we have the chance to record something magical and special, a scene of wildlife or a landscape.

It's a life of paradoxical loneliness, caused by the mixed feelings we have when we are on the prowl, awaiting the arrival of a beautiful animal. We know that we are alone, but we don't want to be, because our deepest desire is for the encounter with another species that will fracture the aloneness.

There's an intimacy in this solitude. As when you close your eyes and listen to a lovely melody that calms you and soothes your mood, so the waiting photographer experiences a similar state of mind and emotions – a sense of extreme self-isolation, caused and enhanced by the peace and quiet that is found in the middle of nowhere.

And with spiritual loneliness comes emotional dialogue. It's like listening to musical notes that amaze, move and even overwhelm you – notes that make you vibrate as they do. You want to share the experience with someone else so that they too can enjoy the magic of the inner explosion. In a similar way, the photographer enters into a dialogue with nature. We are alone, but so intensely alone that the environment speaks to us, calling and whispering in countless alluring motifs. The photographer's ability to understand by looking allows us to connect with nature, through the camera, so that the images we capture in the natural world become images of ourselves.

A photographer in the middle of the forest is never alone. We close our eyes and sense the slightest movement in the leaves of a tree, or hear birdsong – here and there, sporadically – or listen to the gamut of notes made by the flowing waters of a forest stream. The solitary photographer, camera in hand, is never alone. Blessed loneliness!

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For more information and to
book tickets, please contact
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Jose Pesquero and Kaupo Kikkas (p. 4)