

Morton Feldman: DAAD Statement

From September 1971 to September 1972, Morton Feldman lived in Berlin as Artist-in-Residence under the Berliner Künstlerprogramm [Berlin Artist Programme] of the Deutschen Akademischen Austauschdienstes (DAAD) [German Academic Exchange Programme]¹. In 1975, he contributed the short statement below to the 10 year commemorative volume, 10 Jahre Berliner Künstlerprogramm [10 Years of the Berlin Artist Programme] edited by Thomas Deecke (Berlin: DAAD, 1975) p62:

I personally feel that the DAAD is the most important cultural project existing anywhere today: My residence in Berlin was the most productive year of my life, and what makes me happy is not only because of the music I composed in that time, but the fact that much of it was commissioned by various German radio & festival organizations.

Here is a list of the seven compositions composed in Berlin and its initial performance history either in Germany or elsewhere:

1. Pianos & Voices I², comm. by the Berlin Festival Week³
2. Pianos and Voices II⁴, comm. by the Munich Olympic Festival
3. Chorus & Orchestra I, comm. by the Cologne Radio⁵
4. Chorus & Orchestra II, presented by the Royal College [sic] of Music for the B.B.C.⁶
5. Voice and Instruments I, presented by the SFB⁷
6. Voices and Instruments I, comm. by the Dartington Summer Concerts (England)⁸
7. Cello and Orchestra, presented by Siegfried Palm at the Royan Festival⁹.

Please let me know if there is anything that I could do to further your future plans or to help you in any way.

Morton Feldman

¹ A detailed account of Feldman's stay in Berlin is given in Amy C. Beal, *New Music, New Allies: American Experimental Music in West Germany from the Zero Hour to Reunification* (University of California Press, 2006) pp233-246.

² Now known as *Five Pianos*.

³ Berliner Musiktage 1972.

⁴ Now known as *Pianos and Voices*.

⁵ Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR) Cologne.

⁶ Choir and Orchestra of the Royal Academy of Music, conducted by Alan Hacker, London, 5th January 1973.

⁷ Sender Freies Berlin [Radio Free Berlin], 14th March 1973.

⁸ Dartington International Summer School 1972.

⁹ Siegfried Palm, cello, and the Saarbrücken Radio Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Hans Zender, Royan, France, 19th April 1973.