

Rhama - Uhlu

1978

8' 15"

Rolf Enström

Rhama - Uhlu was the first piece I composed in the studio at EMS which was called the sound workshop.

This was in 1972 and I worked at the studio as a student and helped the composers to get around in the computer language EMS-1 which was developed there.

My normal day consisted of debugging programs and trying to come up with solutions to different problems that the composers presented to me.

I composed with the aid of the computer but mostly the aim for me was to learn the system and the programming language.

Therefore it was very nice to spend the nights in the workshop which was an analogue studio.

Here I found more intuitive solutions to musical problems.

I was very fascinated by the sound one could get by filtering white noise with the narrow band filters in the studio.

The obscure sound of the tersfilter where one could filter out material in intervals of somewhat greater than major thirds and the needle filter were used in this composition.

The singing voice in the piece comes from sweeping the center frequency of the needle filter with very small bandwidths as 3 Hertz and up to 50 Hz.

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