

## LÜ 8/06

### DAVE ALLEN: One Way, Another Way, Then Any Other Way

Opening: 10.08., from 7 pm  
Exhibitions duration: 10.08. – 03.09.2006  
Opening times: Thu – Sun 2 – 7 pm

Under five bars on a single musical staff, with 25 annotated numbered notes, there are a brief set of directions for the musicians: *“Read from the left to the right, playing the notes as follows: 1, 1-2, 1-2-3, 1-2-3-4 etc. When you have reached note 25, play the whole melody once again and then begin subtracting notes from the beginning: 2-...-25, 3-...-25, 4-...-25, ... 22-23-24-25, 23-24-25, 24-25, 25. Hold the last note until everybody has reached it, then begin an improvisation ...”*

Dave Allen's exhibition “One Way, Another Way, Then Any Other Way” in the former Wachturm is based upon the five bar intro of the „Wouldn't It Be Nice“ by the Beach Boys. The seminal, opening song from the legendary “Pet Sounds” album tells the story of two lovers who dream of never having to part again. Utilising the additive method described above the progression of the famous intro sequence is broken apart leaving the disjointed elements of the melody. The end result of this minimalist treatment is a novel and highly graphic sequential structure. The compositional formula quotes Frederic Rzewski (\*1938), one of the most important and influential American composers and performers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The continual exploration of improvisation and collective collaboration as a process has been a central part of his work output, as a composer and as a performer with Musica Elettronica Viva. He is often described as an overtly political composer, in writing pieces derived from Chilean protest songs or the letters of an inmate of Attica State Prison in the U.S.

Dave Allen's transference of Rzewski's additive melodic formula to the song of the Beach Boys is a discerning, yet fitting straight transformation of content and form of the two seemingly separate entities – as the convergence of the motifs and their later separation is realised during the progression of the piece. The melody gradually draws nearer its origin and source, it is played through completely (1-...-25), and then it will once more unravel itself. There is also the possibility for the individual instruments to merge and diverge, as the piece allows the musicians to get it together and lose the place. The instructions continue: *“Always play loud, never stop or falter, stay together as long as you can, but if you get lost, stay lost, do not try to find your way back into the fold.”*

In the make up of a classic rock band – guitars, bass and drums – Dave Allen and The Astrid Marschall Band will perform the Beach Boys notation in Allen's re-arranged sequence on 10<sup>th</sup> August at the Wachturm.