

Saed Haddad

Composition and the illusion of time and space

The word 'to compose' in Latin, '*componere*', has nine meanings. In this lecture, I will focus only on one of these meanings, namely, 'to dissemble' (to give a false or misleading appearance to; to conceal the truth or real nature of).

With the explanation of an Arabic medieval theory as well as with the analysis of some Arabic scales (*maqamat*) and rhythms, I will explore some technical means which are capable to create for our perception the illusion of hearing various tempi.

Through the recourse to some pieces of the solo cycle '*In Memoriam Escher*' (II & III), I will demonstrate how the interplay of dynamics (pp, mp, f, etc.) -with no recourse to electronics- is apt to create virtual spaces for our perception.