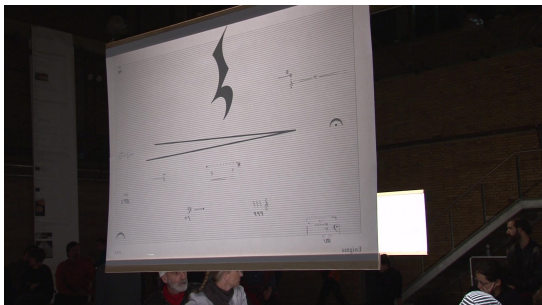


# Diego Ramos Rodríguez

## Der Sogeannte



*Der Sogeannte* ("The so-called") is a cycle of pieces, graphics, videos, games and texts based on the potential of improvisation and notation in contemporary music of all genres. It aims to open a space for a dialog among performers and listeners. It is a project in constant development and its parts can be arranged in several ways, with or without theatrical or scenic elements. Each performance of the cycle is different and unique in the sense that

almost every aspect of the piece (the setting, the duration, the choice of pieces and their order, even the instrumentation) has to be adapted to the venue and the participants, who do not need to be professional musicians but must have great interest in the power of music as a communication tool.

The different pieces of *Der Sogeannte* can be used for improvisational experiments, daily solo or group practice, jam sessions, musical and scenic performances, silent exhibitions and workshops and music education projects.

The scores, sometimes in form of images, sometimes as texts and/or videos, are an integral part of the performance and, in case of a public presentation, have to be visible to the audience (hung as posters, projected on a screen, printed on the programme book).

Versions of *Der Sogeannte* have been already performed or used as workshop material by:

- International Ensemble Modern Academy (see also *Galactic soundscape* on their new website)
- Open\_Music + Studens of the Waldorschule Pforzheim, the Eberhard-Ludwig Gymnasium and the Solitude Gymnasium (Stuttgart).
- Forseti Saxophonquartett + Kunst- und Musikschule Brühl (Cologne) at the Kolumba Museum in Cologne
- Musicians of the Ensemble Modern
- Ensemble Garage
- ...

The work tells the story of *der Sogeannte*, who lives in a world of pure forms without meaning, without content, without the possibility to express or to communicate. An objective world where the only feature that characterize objects, ideas or living creatures is their name. He tries to find forgotten meanings and emotions by doing the only thing he can do with the material he has: combining it, putting it out of context and trying to force it to be something. He creates then texts and pictures which are symbols of his efforts.

The musicians find these scores-pictures-texts and their goal is to continue the work of this mysterious person: try to give life and a new sense to abstract symbols and words with the only tools they have at their disposition: themselves and their instruments.

“...Der Sogenannte looks for traces of forgotten meanings. His world is self-evident, obvious, it contains only silent forms. Nothing means, everything is just “called”: language and poetics, nature, ethics and society are ruins, empty envelopes from which only the names remain. No feelings, no art, no truth or lie are possible. In a world of pure forms, signs are democratic, existence and truth are one and the same thing. Semantics and orthography are of no use anymore: no ideals mean complete freedom, the dictatorship of indifference.

Der Sogenannte creates forms out of dead forms, desperately trying to rediscover emotion, sense, content and meaning, the possibility of a dialog, the rebirth of communication.”

## Videos:

**Trailer:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEgMP1PMkyo>

(Premiere at the Festival der Jungen Talente 2014, Offenbach am Main  
*Internationale Ensemble Modern Akademie*)

*Pieces to play once and never again:* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9M52MOn\\_lo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9M52MOn_lo)

(Ensemble Garage, March 2018, Eastman School of Music Rochester)

*In mehreren Sätzen:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwefOGIKPP4>

(Open\_Music, Waldorfschule Pforzheim, November 2014, Musica Viva Pforzheim)

**More info:** <http://www.diegoramosrodriguez.weebly.com/sgn.html>

