

This piece is part of a collection of site-and-time-specific concert works. The following text, the score, and the recording should be viewed as archival documents of a provisional work, not as performance materials.

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*untitled (Vosges)* for cello, field recordings, and the surrounding acoustic environment (2022)

written for Stefan Thut

The piece was presented at a private residence in a small village in the Vosges hills in France on August 14, 2022. During the performance, a window was partially opened to allow sounds from the surrounding environment into the room. The piece was forty minutes long.

For the performance, I made field recordings on the grounds near where the concert was to be held. These recordings were played through four small speakers inside the performance space—the speakers were placed among a small group of listeners. The recordings were played incredibly softly, making them nearly indistinguishable from the sounds coming from outside.

Stefan Thut played cello. The cello's sounds were almost imperceptible in the space, playing with the bowstick and the hair on the muted A string and the instrument's body simultaneously. Stefan explored the sonically fruitful instabilities and subtleties inherent in this technique. During the performance, a recording of Stefan playing with the identical technique a few days prior was also played through one of the speakers.

All of the sounds made were extremely quiet, fading in and out of audibility, serving to alter the room's ambience, rather than acting as musical objects or events.

in a small village in the Vosges hills

August 14, 2022

Andrew Maxbauer

*field recording 1*

*field recording 2*

*cello recording*

*cello*

*field recording 3*

*window*