

Brief an den Vater

Francis Dhomont

Brief an den Vater is the first preliminary work for *Le cri du Choucas*, a long work in progress about Franz Kafka's world, works, and character.

Of course, this work is about the famous letter Franz Kafka wrote to his father in November of 1919, a letter he never mailed. From his long indictment, I have only used a few sentences, selected because they sum up what Kafka held against his father in explicit terms, and mostly because they translate the deep worries of the writer, the mold that gave him his shape, and, as a result, the substratum of his literary topics.

For over twelve years now, I have been working on a long work entitled *Le cri du Choucas*, about this author and his writings. So what has this "letter" turned into? I am surprised at the hybrid thing before me, both music and Hörspiel, that contains sounds, words, ideas, pictures, and that seems to eschew any regular classification. I might as well file it alongside my 'essays.' However, this piece is most of all a preliminary study for *Le cri du Choucas*.

One word about the sound materials: other than the voice of actor Martin Engler (narration in the foreground), the sound materials were mostly obtained from the voice of the German composer Hans Tutschku, either as vocalizations or transformed into pure sonics. Kafka's gritty and ruthless lament called for rough, tentative, and unseductive sound materials. So I decided to take a chance.

The basics:

Brief an den Vater (Letter to His Father) – Franz Kafka

- read by Martin Engler

- 100 page letter written by Kafka about his father's demanding/emotionally abusive personality

- never delivered

Sounds

- Martin Engler's narration w/ filters

- voice of Hans Tutschku

- high pitch feedback like sounds

- papers shuffling

- rustling