Supplementary text (1997) about STIMMUNG

(written in December 1997 following a performance of STIMMUNG with 6 female voices))

The following text is a supplement to the comments in the preface of the score of STIMMUNG (Paris Version), published by Universal Edition.

STIMMUNG should be performed only by the voices prescribed:

- Soprano I
- Soprano II
- Alto
- Tenor I
- Tenor II
- Bass.

The fundamental tone of STIMMUNG is B-flat (sung by the bass, and in combinations $Q_1$ and $Q_2$ also by tenor II).

All other pitches must be overtones of the natural harmonic series above this B-flat.

In the preface of the score, annotation number 10, which reads, “depending on the average range of the singers, this overtone series may also be slightly transposed upwards or downwards” applies to a performer of the Tenor II part who was not always able to effortlessly sing the low B-flat; in such places, the tuning was raised about $\frac{1}{4}$ tone. In any case, the divergence may never be larger than a minor second.

Performing a translation of the poems in the local language has proven to be impossible and should not be done. It is possible to print a translation in the programme next to a reproduction of the German texts.
The singers should sit cross-legged in a circle on the floor, on a high podium (approximately 1.30 m higher than the audience) as has been done since the world première in 1968. They should be dressed in light-coloured, simple clothing, bare-footed.

The sound projectionist is seated at the mixing console in the middle of the hall and controls the balance of the 6 microphones or 6 transmitters.

In preparing a performance, the score of the Paris Version of STIMMUNG should be treated as an example, and musicians should be consulted who have rehearsed the work with Stockhausen.

A comprehensive text about the composition of the work and about its performance practice is printed in the text booklet of CD 12 of the Stockhausen Complete Edition (Stockhausen-Verlag, 51515 Kürten, Germany, fax. 0049 - 2268 - 1813). This text should also be used for the programme notes.