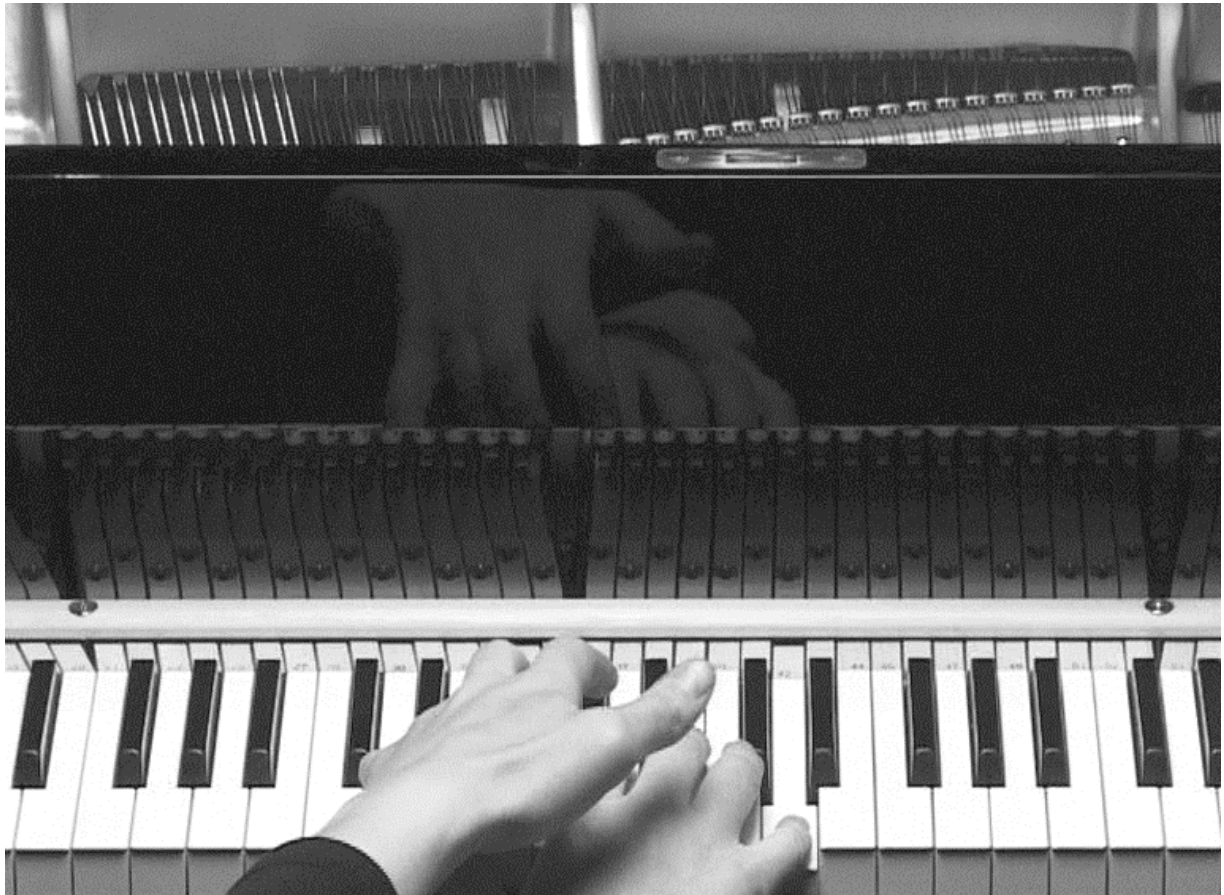


Three for Magister Zacharias (2002/4)
Marc Sabat / Peter Sabat



(video still)

“Three For Magister Zacharias” is a DVD film of three studio performances of a composition derived from the 14th-century ballade “Sumite karissimi” by Magister Zacharias. His work long existed as “virtual music” because of its reputation for unplayably difficult rhythmic complexity.

“For Magister Zacharias” requires that a piano mechanism be played by applying precisely controlled pressure to the keys, causing the dampers to lift away from the strings without the hammers striking. It was conceived as a private music which could only be perceived in close proximity to its source. When performed before a larger audience, the piano mechanism may be amplified, causing normally struck keys as well as sounds of the audience to be magnified within a context of noisy melodies.

In addition to its presentation as a DVD project, the artists also conceive the possibility of showing this piece as an installation. The image is to be projected on a floating screen so that the hands and keyboard appear at their actual size (1:1), and at the point where someone might be if playing, the five sound channels are focussed using ultrasound “audio spotlight” speakers, creating a sound image that cannot be heard elsewhere in the space.

CREDITS:

Direction / Film : Peter Sabat
Music Composition / Performance : Marc Sabat
Editing : Marc and Peter Sabat
Sound : Mark S. Willsher
Sound Assistants : Aaron Reiff and Dann Michael Thompson
Piano Tuning and Adjustment : Chuck Terpo

SPECIAL THANKS (in chronological order) TO:

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