



LISTENING

IN 75 ATTEMPTS

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Listening in 75 Attempts

Listening in 75 Attempts is a fifty-minute composition created from seventy-five excerpts drawn from the Goethe-Institut Music Archive. Produced to mark the Goethe-Institut's seventy-fifth anniversary, the work approaches the archive not as a collection of individual recordings, but as a space of listening.

The composition assembles materials originating from a wide range of projects, recordings, collaborations, and initiatives represented within the archive. Soundscapes, musical works, documentary materials, artist voices, and collaborative productions appear alongside one another, creating a listening experience that moves across places, practices, and perspectives without attempting to reduce them to a single narrative.

The work does not approach the archive as a field to be comprehensively mapped. Nor does it attempt an anthropological survey of its contents. Instead, it approaches the archive through acts of listening. Some archive objects are represented through multiple excerpts drawn from different locations within the same recording. These returns do not repeat previously heard material; instead, they revisit the same source through a different point of entry. The seventy-five excerpts should therefore not be understood as a representative sample of the archive. Some recordings remain absent from the composition altogether. The composition follows the logic of listening rather than the logic of cataloguing.

The composition is organised around four listening orientations: Environments, Encounters, Processes, and Voices. These fields function as conceptual frameworks rather than fixed compositional sections. Materials associated with different fields may overlap, recur, and intersect throughout the work, creating a shifting constellation of places, practices, and voices.

Environments brings together recordings rooted in specific places. Urban soundscapes and acoustic atmospheres situate the listener within diverse geographic and cultural contexts. Place emerges not as background, but as a source of experience and orientation.

Encounters focuses on collaboration and exchange. Recordings within this field bring together artists, musicians, and cultural practitioners from different locations, traditions, and practices. These works reveal the archive as a record of dialogue, cooperation, and creative interaction.

Processes gathers materials connected to experimentation, composition, performance, and musical development. The field draws attention to sound in states of formation, exploration, and production, highlighting the practices through which artistic work takes shape.

Voices gathers spoken perspectives from different cities and contexts. Artists, musicians, and cultural practitioners reflect on their experiences, conditions, and environments. The field foregrounds speech as testimony, conversation, and lived experience.

Across the composition, recordings from different decades, regions, and contexts coexist within a shared temporal space. A soundscape may be followed by a musical collaboration; an experimental composition may lead into a spoken reflection. Historical and contemporary materials are heard alongside one another without hierarchy, allowing unexpected relationships to emerge between them.

The title *Listening in 75 Attempts* acknowledges that every encounter with an archive is partial. No single listening can encompass its entirety. Each excerpt represents one attempt among many: a way into a larger body of material that can never be exhausted by a single listening. Together, the seventy-five excerpts offer seventy-five points of entry into the archive rather than a summary of it.

In the context of the Goethe-Institut's seventy-fifth anniversary, the work proposes listening as a form of reflection. Rather than presenting a historical survey or commemorative narrative, *Listening in 75 Attempts* invites audiences to engage directly with the archive through sound. The result is an active encounter with the places, exchanges, practices, and voices that continue to resonate within the archive today.