

APRIL 2018

LAUGHTER



Who is still able to laugh? Maybe children still know this carefree and clear laughing of unadulterated happiness. But then somehow we lost our laugh.

Is there really nothing anymore to laugh about?

There are people who give you a warm smile, coming from the heart, offering friendship. Those are the real friends.

There are people who can not laugh at all because their life is full of deadly seriousness. Laughing is vulgar or even goes against good manners, perhaps it violates religious feelings. (Did Jesus never laugh? Or one of the other religious leaders?)

One should avoid these people. Obviously there is a wide emotional field one can call 'laughing'. It ranges from a sage smile of mellowness to the roaring laughter of drunks, from the first smile of a small infant to the jeering laughter of contempt and spitefulness. The giggle of teenage girls, spreading in the class room under the teacher's stern look, the liberating or bound laughter in a cabaret show and the hysterical laughter that can grip us in a terrifying situation, all this are more stones of the mosaic we call 'laughing'.

The worst and disgusting form of laughing is the 'say cheese smile' of so many VIPs and politicians, this ridiculous teeth baring in front of a camera, a symbol of lust for power like real wolves. A pantywaist who wants to become the leader of the pack.

If one takes a closer look at these pictures one realizes straight away that for instance the shape of the mouth does not belong to a relaxed laughing, that the cheek muscles are ready to bite and that showing off the canines is a clear sign. The facial parts around the eyes look rigid and cold, the 'laughing wrinkles' are missing and often even nastiness gleams from the corner of the eye and no cordial affection.

In this 'smile' one can often clearly read disdain, indifference, cold feelings, insincerity and feigning. One should mistrust a bit more these smiling grimaces, as they do not mean us well.

Again and again I experience an open, liberating and hearty laugh by Black Africans, and I really hope that we do not make them stop laughing.

The laughing or smiling plays also a big part in music, but, who does really smile when listening to a Scherzo? (That means one did not understand the joke)

As an example I would like to recommend 'Six Bagatelles for Wind Quintet' by György Ligeti. (you can find it on Youtube)