

The Space between us / Der Raum zwischen uns

This performance takes an existing composition and existing choreographic material as the foundation for a process that can be described as a co-creation of meaning. This transdisciplinary process concerns itself with the exploration of ways to transform meaning, of the connection between performers, and the performers themselves. The co-creative process through which the performance is created is based upon the strategies for collaboration that are being developed via the creative practice titled Pas: Trans_form. As part of this practice, the second performance aims (like the first performance, and in similar ways) to support and illuminate the aims of the project **Zukunftspotenzial Kunst**.

The creation of the composition that forms the core of the process and of the performance is an example of a long, chain-like process of transformation. This composition is the *Fantasy* for violin and viola composed by Hannes Taljaard in 2020. *Fantasy* is a re-composing of an earlier piece by Hannes Taljaard, namely *Amare Illi* (2011) for soprano and solo violin. *Amare Illi* is based upon the song *Amarilli mia bella* by Giulio Caccini, composed in the sixteenth century.

Giulio Caccini (1551-1618) wrote the song *Amarilli mia bella*, as part of a collection called *Le nuove Musiche* (1601), a collection that showcased his transformation of the familiar ‘musical language’ of his time. For the more than 420 years since its publication, the song *Amarilli mia bella* has been performed continuously. The song is in the repertoire of many singers all over the world, because it is a widely used didactic piece. *Amare illi* was composed as a transformation of Caccini’s well-known song, and as an experiment of how meaningful interaction with audience members can be construed through their familiarity with the source material. The following image can illuminate the process of recomposing Caccini’s song.

A beautiful ceramic vase (Caccini’s song) is dropped on the floor. The pieces are rearranged so that new, more abstract patterns arise: Caccini’s melodic material and text is combined differently to highlight other potential meanings.

The fragments of the vase are now connected with gold (the sounds of the violin in the new composition) – creating an artwork as if through the Japanese technique of *kintsugi*.

The gold creates a precious web that catches the observer: the familiarity of the music, combined with its estrangement create an esthetic process that has the potential to draw the observer into co-creating the meaning of the new composition.

The pre-final phase in the transformation process through which the performance *The Space between us* was created was the generation of the movement material for this performance. From March to July 2026, Hannes Taljaard created a small collection of gestures and movements, taking his own ‘kinaesthetic understanding’ of his own composition *Amare illi*, as well as the fragments of Caccini’s text as sources. The artists in the ensemble learned this collection, and interpreted the gestures and movements in personalised ways in sound and/or movement. Their performances and improvisations (within frames) in sound and movement is the final phase in this complex chain of transformations of meaning.