

# DILEMMAS OF VALUES AND CONTEMPORARY LIFE-WORLD



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Ineta Kivle

## Constitution of Meaning of Sound and Music

Constitution of meaning of sound is a comprehensive theme that unites different thinkers of phenomenological tradition, including classical phenomenology, applied phenomenology, phenomenology of music and sound.

My phenomenological analyses of sound and music will be based on fundamentals elaborated by Edmund Husserl; I shall also deal with Martin Heidegger's analyses of *Dasein* and its openness to world as hearing of being, Maurice Merleau-Ponty's phenomenology of perception and human being as mind-body unit. As special phenomenological approach to sound and music is analysed in investigations of such philosophers and theoreticians as Roman Ingarden, Don Ihde, Alfred Schutz, Thomas Clifton, Joseph Smith, Lawrence Ferrara. Their analyses testifies that phenomenology uncovers new horizons for understanding of human being and music and give remarkable contribution to philosophy and cultural studies. Phenomenology of music develops on the basis of classical phenomenology that looks on music as heard and experienced by a human being now and here.

For the development of the theme I shall concentrate on the phenomenon of sound, analyses of the constitution of meaning, and touch on music as a constituted world of sounds.

Phenomenological description of sound presents a different view than the one existing in sciences of music. It analyzes sound as meaningful phenomenon and also deepens knowledge about human being as perceiver of sound and bearer of meanings.

Human being is in the center for phenomenological and also cultural studies – only human being constitutes the phenomenon of sounds as meaningful hearing, seeing, feeling, creates art and music. Phenomenology does not concentrate on how I do meet with this or that melody,

As we have seen phenomenology gives more comprehensive view of sound than that of sound-in-time. If we enlarge the phenomenological horizons of analyses of sound we involve in it all basic concepts of phenomenology – phenomenon, I, consciousness, intentionality, constitution of meanings, intersubjectivity, lifeworld. In such an approach analyses of sound is more phenomenological than in other sciences. In phenomenology sound is «now» and «here» as phenomenon through which we evidently see the deepest level of acting consciousness and *a priori* given possibility to experience a sound.

It shows that sounds are always given to us as meaningful phenomena, that everything we grasp in consciousness and perceive by mind – body is the constituted world for us, the meaningful world.