"… horrific honorific hommage …"
for the opening of Ars Electronica
Urfährwändchöre

— sequence of syllables without contents … through different ways of singing and speaking different associations are evoked with the audience

— dadaist poem — fractures of sentences and words are filled with new contents through an uncommon combination and superposition

— speech — short and concise understandable opening speech; accompanied by interjections from the audience

— rhythmical sound images — a sentence is divided into parts, the groups of words are lifted of their contents through multiple repetitions and transform themselves into rhythmical sound images (timbral qualities are only background matters, the sound sequences have an effect like the products of a drum-computer)

— our wishes vote for sour sound's weight — private wishes expressed to the public

— encyclopedia of logopathy — distorted speech, in order to explain ununderstandable parts the general uncertainness is removed by a well-defined logopathy

— audience's extra — a story from the life of an unattentive listener will tune up the opening speech

— greetings to the world — and at last a greeting to the rest of the world by rattling pneumonia & violin.

The Urfährwändchöre

Originally, the Urfährwändchöre were intended to be a grouping of 13,000 world-wide unknown singers and singeresses. The noughts did not appear. So they're just the 13.

As early as 1984, the experimental voice-musicians made their first appearance within the Stadtwerkstatt's contribution to Ars Electronica. Final rehearsal for a frightful appearance (when the dismantling crew for tearing down the house Friedhofstraße 6 arrived).

In a new formation, a sextet, we are invited this year (1988) with "Warning Ohrgeschichten" for the sound track cyclus to the Stadtwerkstatt.

The members are: Chris Althaler, Michaela Bauer, Elisabeth Baumgartner, Rosa Braunsteidl, Thomas Steiner, Rita Schmalnauer.

The Urfährwändchöre cannot be understood at all, not even by each other which makes interesting tunes. THEY raise their voices to give the Alpine heritage a new dimension.

… distort found sound patterns
… create strange association links
… dissolve heavy contents in rhythmical sound patterns
… replace official speeches without fuss
… sound out from windows, walls, rotten houses, shrieking or singing softly with their voices and rarely convey yodeling joy to the young and the old.