

series 97

concert 1

soprano and piano

featuring

tessa miller and david lockett

programme

franz schubert

Wohin

Gretchen am Spinnrade

raymond chapman smith

...Aus Lichtzwang

david kotlowy

Sapho

quentin sd grant

La Ciel

Light

johannes brahms

Die Mainacht

So willst du des Armen

this concert series is funded by

Arts SA



A R T S A

Forthcoming Concerts

October: Wind Quintet- String Quintet concert,

November - Solo piano recital

December - Clarinet Quintet

...AUS "LICHTZWANG ":

CANTICLE TO TEXTS OF PAUL CELAN

raymond chapman smith

...Aus "Lichtzwang: (Force of Light) sets four texts from Paul Celan's long series of characteristically and uniquely complex, lyrical poems from 1970, the year of his suicide. Last year I composed "Abglanzbeladen" (Laden with Reflection), also for Tessa Miller, with the five shortest texts in this cycle.

For ...aus "Lichtzwang" I chose three longer poems which share references to space (the cosmic variety), and, for the concluding, mirrored epigram, the opening line of the poem, "All the names spoken backward."

As with the first cycle, this second set of songs is generated by the series from Arnold Schoenberg's "A Survivor from Warsaw" op 46, constantly transformed to create a grille or matrix of material into which the texts can be placed.

Shadowy resonances and residues of Romantic syntax, even, at one point, a very Schubertian Neapolitan shift of harmony, presented themselves as encouraging omens in this year when the deeply lyrical spirits of Schubert and Brahms are, naturally, even more than usually present.

WAS ES AN STERNEN BEDARF, WHAT IS NEEDED WHEN
SPEAKING OF STARS

schuttet sich aus, sheds itself,

deiner Hande laubgruner Schatten the leaf-green shadow of
your hands

sammelt es ein, gathers it,

freudig zerbeiss ich gladly I bite off
das munzenkernige nugget after nugget of
Schicksal. fate.

IM LEEREN

wo sich die Kuttel rank
mit der Bregen-Blute,
warf ich mich Steinen zu,
die fingen mich auf
und bekronten ein Rund
mit dem, was ich wurde.

IN DIE NACHT GEGANGEN, helferisch,
ein stern-
durchlassiges Blatt
statt des Mundes:
es bleibt
noch etwas wild zu vertun,
baumlings.

DIE RUCKWARTGESPROCHENEN
Namen, alle.....

For soprano and piano david kotlowy

Sappho - Joanna McClure

The spirit matters
Most of the words gone

The simplicity
And ardor

Reach out and
Catch a resonance

That time and fragments
Only enhance.

IN EMPTY SPACE

Where entrails entwine
with the cerebral blossom,
I cast myself to stones,
they caught me
and ringed a sphere
with what I became.

GONE INTO THE NIGHT, complicit,
a star-
porous leaf
for a mouth:
something remains
for wild wasting,
treeward.

ALL THE NAMES
spoken backward.....

Joanna McClure was born near the town of Oracle, Arizona in 1930. In the early 1950's she met the poet and writer Michael McClure and they both moved to San Francisco. Their circle of friends there included the Beat poets and Kenneth Rexroth, as well as Miriam and Kenneth Patchen, and Black Mountain expatriate Robert Duncan. She still lives in San Francisco, and her poems are published in limited-edition chapbooks.

My intention was not for an orthodox "setting" of the poem – even though the complete text is used – but to attempt an equal partnership between the vocal and piano parts. The words could then appear to both emerge from and also be a reflection of the music, which would still retain the overall ambience of the text. The substance of the opening line thus pervades all of the composition. A Sapphic verse structure lays like bedrock under my musical sedimentation, through which I hope to have excavated the imagery of the text.

La Ciel and Light quentin sd grant

Paul Verlaine led a tattered and dissipated life at the end of last century - leaving his young family and jaunting around Europe until being locked up for putting a bullet into his best mate, Arthur Rimbaud. His verse is marked by its lyricism and fresh simplicity, as is shown by this evocative poem, *La Ciel*, an ode to the veracity of the commonplace experienced in the act of living.

Light, in contrast, is a poem about the act of dying.

Le Ciel - Paul Verlaine

Le ciel est, par-dessus le toit,
Si blue, si calm!
Un arbre, par-dessus le toit,
Berce sa palme.

The sky above the roof,
How calm and blue!
A tree above the roof
Rocks a slow bough.

La cloche dans le ciel qu'on voit,
Doucement tinte.
Un oiseau sur l'arbre qu'on voit
Chante sa plainte.

The sky-hung bell I watch
Sounds its sweet note;
The branch-swung bird I watch
Sings from a sad throat.

Mon Dieu, mon Dieu, la vie est là
Simple et tranquille.
Cette plaisible rumeurlá
vient de la ville.

My God, my God, *life's* there,
Unvexed, complete;
That placid murmur there
Comes from the street.

Qu'as tu fait, ô toi que violá
Pleurant sans cesse,
Dis, qu'as tu fait, toi que violá,
De la jeunesse

What have you done, who weep
Your endless tears?
What have you done, who weep
With youth's lost years?

Light - Quentin Grant

Your arms will hold you,
Your place held brightly,
Held gently till darkness.
And you fall away
and fall, and fall away.

Held gently in stillness and peace,
It is holy.



Your hands will join
over your heart,
Warm in embrace.
Held gently till stillness,
Without despair or happiness.
Held gently in stillness and peace.

It is holy.

performers

tessa miller has sung in a wide range of styles, from opera, oratorio and operetta to musicals and popular song, and her focus on music of the Baroque and Classical periods enabled her to pursue this avenue of study in Europe in 1991 with the aid of a Churchill Fellowship. She is also acclaimed by contemporary composers for her astute interpretations of modern works. In 1996 Tessa gave recitals and master classes at Hong Kong's Academy of Performing Arts, where she performed to critical acclaim.

david lockett has performed in the UK, US, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Canada and Taiwan. He has made over fifty recordings with the ABC and overseas networks. His large repertoire includes many contemporary solo works and he is also a distinguished chamber performer. He recently recorded the solo piano works of Margaret Sutherland, one of Australia's most eminent and interesting composers.



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