



✕ UNIARTS HELSINKI

Voice & Cello

Wednesday 24.04.2019 at 19.00

Black Box, Helsinki Music Centre

Voice & Cello

Peter Eötvös, *Two Poems to Polly* (1998)

Paola Livorsi, *Migramare* (2016-17)

Jovanka Trbojevic, *Sky Shopping - Hommage to Brahms* (2014)

Peter Ablinger, *Voices and Piano* (1998-)

Paola Livorsi, *Between Words and Life* (2019)

Anni Elif Egecioglu, voice & cello

Veli Kujala, 24/tone accordion

Emil Hölmström, piano

defunensemble

Hanna Kinnunen, alto flute

Mikko Raasakka, bass clarinet

Markus Hohti, cello

Lily-Marlene Puusepp, harp

Emil Holmström, piano

Juan de Dios Magdaleno, live electronics

Marek Pluciennik, processed live video, objects, video art

Suvi Tuominen, dance and choreography

Esme Karakaya, costume designer

Anders Pohjola, Jon-Patrik Kuhlefeldt, sound engineers

Sirje Ruotula, lights designer

Voice & Cello is my third doctoral concert. The theme is the multiple relations of human voice with the instrument: each musician has a personal relation to his/her instrument, and a personal instrumental voice.

All of us have a personal voice timbre, way of speaking and body language, and this all comes together when we express ourselves as musicians. In my research, I investigate these relations, in the domain of string instruments.

For this concert I continued the fruitful collaboration started in 2017 with Anni Elif Egecioglu. As mother-tongue plays also an important role in my research, she will be using both Swedish and Turkish.

(Paola Livorsi)

Peter Eötvös (1944-): *Two Poems to Polly* (1998)

For a speaking cellist and cello, it is a fascinating set of poems by Lady Sarashina, a poet at the Japanese imperial court.

They present the “dialogue between a man, who is waiting for his deceased lover to come back from the other world, and the voice that answers from there” (P. Eötvös).

The poems have been translated into English by Ivan Morris. The piece was written in the period of Eötvös’ opera *Lady Sarashina* (1999-2007).

Paola Livorsi (1967-): *Migramare* (2016-17)

Migramare is a tape piece, commissioned for the exhibition Kotimaa / Homeland, at the Finnish Museum of Photography, 2016.

It is a documentary work, consisting in interviews to migrants, arrived in Finland through a long and often terrible journey through the Balkan route. Most of them are from Irak, some from Syria.

All of them tell the story of their journey in their own mother-tongues, Arabic and Turkmen, with some translations in English and Finnish.

The spatialization was realised in Vilnius in spring 2018, during the Nordic+Mix international workshop.

Jovanka Trbojevic (1963-2017): *Sky Shopping - Hommage to Brahms* (2014)

This piece was also written for the stage, as part of *Opera Absurdium. 7 Episodes from an Artist’s Life* (Viitasaari, festival Time of Music, 2014).

The text was written by the composer:

“I wrote a kind of nonsense text, with romantic connotations and sarcasm towards contemporary values. I wrote names of clothing items, with exaggerated excitement of shopping, and scientific names of cloud types in Latin, with descriptions of their heights and shapes, and of consistency of different cloud classes” (J.Trbojevic).

Peter Ablinger (1959-): *Voices and Piano* (1998-)

Voices and Piano is a set of 57 pieces for piano and tape (1998-). The pieces explore the relations between speaking voice and instrumental sound.

Ablinger used existing recordings of well-known voices, artists, politicians, philosophers and so on. He analysed the rhythm and harmony of the speech with a software designed by Thomas Musil at IEM Graz, Austria.

In this concert we will listen to three pieces, based on three great voices of our time: Kati Outinen, Hanna Schygulla and Orson Welles.

Paola Livorsi (1967-): Between Words and Life (2019)

Based on poems by the Turkish poet Gülden Akin (1933-2015), the piece is in three parts: *Sözler (Words)*, deals with words that are trapped into a mouth, would like to fly, but it is said that who will let them fly will be caught, or arrested.

It is built on recordings of Anni's vowels and cello playing. I was especially interested in the transitions between different vowels.

The second part, *Neyi (What)*, is about the fragile balance between words and life, on a rope drawn on the void. The author asks the acrobat to tell her "what to write and why".

All the material is based on speaking voice, extended by the instruments.

The third part *Leke (Stain)* questions about the "other voices", the "world's voices" that surround us. There will be some improvisation, I consider important to leave some space for the artists to express themselves freely, to be physically and mental present and to react to the present moment.

As in my previous doctoral concerts, the piece involves a performative and visual part: the singer and the dancer will move in the space, exploring its boundaries through their bodies. The projections will create a virtual space, and will also elaborate, through a live camera, on the musicians' and dancer's gestures and body languages. The video artist will become a performer too.

Another virtual space will be created by the electronics, through the spatialisation.

Compared to a traditional stage-based concert setting, where performers and audience are strongly separated, I propose an alternative space, to allow a multisensorial and imaginative experience.

SÖZLER

Kuştu sözler büyüdü sığmadı ağza
uçacaktı elbet uçurulurdu
uçurunu tuttular

ORD

Orden var fåglarna,
kunde inte få plats i en mun
då de växte sig större,
med säkerhet skulle de flyga,
den som gov dem vingar är förvärrad

WORDS

Words were the birds, couldn't
fit in a mouth as they grew up
surely they were going to fly
who let them wing is copped

NEYİ

Kör dengeye yerleşip
susa susa yürürken
açılırken sözlerle
hayat arasındaki
gerdiğin ip üstünde
hey canbaz

neyi neden yazmalı?

VARFÖR

Som om du hittat ett temt mellanrum
där du tyst balanserar,
på det öppna repet du drog
mellan ord och liv.
Hör på, acrobat!
Säg mig vad jag skall skriva och varför

WHAT

As if you'd found a blank balance
you silently walk
on the open rope you drew
between words and life
heigh! the acrobat
tell me what to write and why?

LEKE

(...) oysa
utanılacak bir şeymiş, öyle diyor Camus
tak başına mutlu olmak
sesler ve öteki sesler, nerde dünyanın sesleri

leke dokuya işledi
susarak susarak

FLÄCKEN

(...) egentligen,
är de ten skammlig sak, eller sai sager
Kamus,
att vara lycklig po egen hand,
röster och outgrundliga roster,
var finns världens roster

ack så tyst, sjönk fläcken in
i tyget

STAIN

(...) though really
it's a shameful thing, or so Camus says
to be happy on your own
voices and other voices, where are the world's voices

so quietly
the stain has seeped into the fabric

English translation, Beni Sorarsan (1-2), Neil P. Doherty (3)

Swedish translation by Anni Elif Egecioglu

Anni Elif Egecioglu was born in Gothenburg, Sweden and has for the last decade been living in Helsinki, Finland. She is a firework of an artist and composer, combining a dark classical- jazz crossover mezzo-voice with tones from her cello or synthesizer.

Egecioglu has a Bachelor in Music from the University of Music and Arts in Gothenburg and has got, what seems like an endless source of stylistic influences.

She is known for her work in the alternative trio Elifantree which makes music in the borderland between progressive and improvised music.

Her solo album *Anni Elif / Edith* was nominated for "Best Finnish Jazz Album" at the Finnish Grammy Awards 2018.

Egecioglu also works frequently with international musicians, artists and contemporary composers and her musicianship has brought her to many corners of the world.

www.annielif.com

Veli Kujala (1976) has gained a solid reputation of an outstanding interpreter of contemporary music on the accordion. In 2010 he completed his Doctor of Music –degree with distinction from the Sibelius-Academy. He is a prizewinner of many international competitions for soloists and for composition in the field of classical music. From the beginning of his career he has also been very active in the field of jazz and improvised music. During the past ten years he has also made a name for himself as a composer.

Veli Kujala has premiered over 60 works for accordion, among them are nine concertos for accordion and orchestra. He has developed a 'chromatic' quarter-tone accordion, which was first introduced in the Gaudeamus Music Week (Amsterdam) in 2008. His composition debut CD 'Hyperorganism' was nominated for the Finnish Grammy and for the Record of the year -award of the Finnish Broadcasting Company in 2017.

Veli Kujala has performed in whole Europe in major festivals and venues and also toured in the USA.

Emil Holmström has performed as a soloist, chamber musician, and ensemble keyboard player throughout Europe, the Americas, Japan, and Australia. He appears frequently at Finnish music festivals and concert series and has been a featured soloist with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Lapland Chamber Orchestra, and the Lahti Symphony Orchestra. An ardent champion of new music, Holmström is a member Finnish groups defunensemble, the Uusinta Ensemble, and the Tristero Piano Trio, and plays as a regular guest with the Avanti! Chamber Orchestra. He has worked as a recording artist for Alba Records and the Finnish Broadcasting Company, and made numerous world premiere recordings. He runs the Ristiveto Collective, which specializes in performing late 19th-century music on period instruments.

defunensemble

During its ten years history, defunensemble has already performed over 100 concerts and at over 20 different festivals, the most notable being Tampere Biennale, Time of Music, Musica Nova Helsinki, Helsinki Festival, Flow Festival, Klang Concert Series, Crusell Music Festival, Nordic Music Days, dOCUMENTA, chiffren – kieler-tage für neue music, November Music, Loop Festival, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, Re:new music and Copenhagen Avantgarde Music Festival Klang.

Defunensemble has premiered works by Tim Page, Antti Auvinen, Hikari Kiyama, Ville Raasakka, Perttu Haapanen, Pink Twins, M.A. Numminen, Gudmundur Steinn Gunnarsson, Peter Ablinger, Christian Winther Christensen and Gilbert Nouno.

Paola Livorsi

Composer/researcher.

She is interested in multidisciplinary projects, as in *Rooms of Elements* (Northern textile art exhibition 1 : infinite, 2006-07); *Self-portraits, silent voices* (S.Reichenbach photography, S.Susiluoto prose poems, 2011-12); *Sense Disorder* (H.Kozári image and smells), Helsinki Taidehalli May 2013; *Imaginary Spaces* (J.Laitinen cello, M. Pluciennik live video, R.Pugliese live electronics) Helsinki Music Centre 16.10.2016. *Voices and Spaces* (Helsinki Music Centre 20.10.2017, Uusinta Ensemble).

Since autumn 2015 she carries out her artistic research at Sibelius Academy, "Human voice and instrumental voice: a comparative study in timbral content". Her work has been supported by TAIKE, the Finnish Cultural Foundation (2018) and Kordelin Foundation (2019).

She is a member of MUU, Catalysti and the Society of Finnish Composers.

Juan de Diós Magdaleno (Mexico, 1984) received his master's degree in composition from the University of Music and Drama in Graz, Austria, in 2009. He has won several awards and his music has been performed by ensembles such as the Ensemble intercontemporain, the Arditti Quartet, the Nieuw Ensemble, and the Nouvel Ensemble Modern in Mexico, Canada, the Netherlands, the United States, France, and Italy, among other countries. Juan is particularly interested in aspects of temporal flux as well as the application of certain characteristics of chaos theory, notably the integration of non-linear systems in the articulation of a musical discourse. During 2015-2016 he took part of the CURSUS 1 at IRCAM (Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique) and was a resident at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, France. He is currently carrying out a doctoral research at the Sibelius Academy, MuTe. Juan lives in Helsinki, Finland.

Marek Waldemar Pluciennik (1967, Can/Pol) is an independent filmmaker and cinema artist based in Helsinki.

The main concern of his work is the materiality of the film medium. Aside from films, his work is site specific, ephemeral projection performances and installations.

His films have been screened among others in Madatac07 Festival in Madrid, Images Film Festival in Toronto, International Short Film Festival in Tampere. He created video art for theatre projects in Italy and Germany.

His performances have been shown in contemporary art galleries and festivals in Finland, Poland, Sweden, Hungary and Italy. He has been invited to the festival of experimental film Process, in Riga.

Suvi Tuominen is a dancer, artist and archaeologist based in Helsinki. Her works operate within frameworks of contemporary and intercultural arts and performative archaeology.

www.suvituominen.com

Esme Karakaja

Studies men's tailoring at the vocational school *Stadin ammattiopisto*.

Especially interested in performance outfits.

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