

ARCHIPELAGO I



Illustration by Merel Den Boer

ARCHIPELAGO

[Noun]

a group of small islands or an area of sea in which there are many small islands

-Cambridge Dictionary

Ruth Mareen
Master 1 Recital
18/10/2022, 13h
Koninklijk Concervatorium, Studio 2

Bernard van Beurden (1933-2016)

Four Landscapes (2014):

Part I & II

with **Kaat Vanhaverbeke** on accordion

The violin and the accordion are two instruments that blend surprisingly well together. This piece *Four Landscapes* consists of four fundamentally different sound worlds. In the first movement Kaat and I imagine a polar landscape with ice everywhere, bare rocks and from time to time an avalanche. The second landscape we situate in the South American Pampas. We can feel the rawness of nature and the sultriness of the heat. And as cherry on top there is also just a sprinkle of tango.

After a year of being a member of the Ensemble Academy this Dutch, contemporary piece should not be missing from this programme.

Interlude I

Improvised

For my master research I am looking for ways to get classical improvisation on stage during a performance by playing interludes. These improvisations contain musical material and atmospheres of both the previous and the next piece. In this way the whole program fits together seamlessly. Today is the first time I am playing such interludes in a concert setting!

Alfred Schnittke (1934-1998)

Violin Sonata No. 1 (1963)

I. Andante

II. Allegretto

III. Largo

IV. Allegretto scherzando - Allegro

with **Jan-Willem Nelleke** on piano

Since hearing an outstanding performance of this piece by Augustin Hadelich some years ago, this sonata has been on my wish list. I am happy to finally present it here.

This polystylistic piece offers a broad range of characters. The first movement starts with a dreamy violin solo to go on to a second movement filled with humor and sarcasm. The Largo offers a break from all the spikiness. To conclude there is a rhythmic, teasing allegretto, in which you can hear a little bit of *La Cucaracha*. As a big finale in the second half of the fourth movement, we get all three of the previous movements densely stacked on each other to then end with one last small *Cucaracha* quote.

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Sei Solo a Violino senza Basso Accompagnato, BWV 1004 (1717-1720):

Partita No. 2 in D minor (BWV 1004)

III. Sarabanda

IV. Giga

The Sarabanda and Giga are both baroque dances. This third movement is a slow dance in three, with the emphasis on the second beat. The Gigue is a faster, more lively dance in 6/8 with origins in the British folk dance (the Jig).

The sonatas and partitas for solo violin are such a fundamental work in the violin repertoire, that I felt like part of it could not be missed from this presentation.

Interlude II

Improvised

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)

L'histoire du tango (1985)

I. Bordello 1900

IV. Concert d'Aujourd'hui

with **Marie-Lou Debels** on guitar

Marie-Lou and I have been playing together since our first bachelor. Last year we developed a South-American, Spanish programme titled *Evocación!*. Today we play a small part of it. You will hear two pieces by the famous, Argentinian tango composer Astor Piazzolla: the first and last movement of his *History of the Tango*. These two pieces offer a quick travel through time, from the early tracks of this dance to a fairly modern approach.

A special thank you to my teacher Janet Krause and to the musicians that are playing with me: Kaat, Jan-Willem and Marie-Lou!