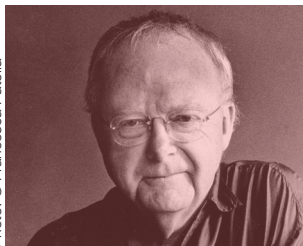


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Louis Andriessen

La Commedia

premiere at Holland Festival

La Commedia
(world premiere)
Koninklijk Theater Carré,
Amsterdam
12/14/15/16/17/18 June 2008,
8.00 pm

Tickets:
www.dno.nl

performance details

The world premiere of Louis Andriessen's opera based on Dante's *La Commedia* takes place in Amsterdam on 12 June, providing one of the highlights of this year's Holland Festival. Described by the composer as a 'film opera', the new full-evening work is a collaboration between Andriessen and film director Hal Hartley, following on from earlier stageworks created with Robert Wilson (*De Materie*) and Peter Greenaway (*ROSA The Death of a Composer and Writing to Vermeer*). *La Commedia* was commissioned with the financial support of the Fonds voor de Scheppende Toonkunst and the Netherlands Opera.

La Commedia receives six performances at the Koninklijk Theater Carré in Amsterdam (12, 14-18 June). Reinbert de Leeuw, the leading exponent of Andriessen's music, conducts the combined forces of the Asko and Schoenberg Ensembles. Vocalists include soprano Claron McFadden as Beatrice, Cristina Zavalloni and Jeroen Willems who sing the music most associated with Dante and Lucifer respectively, a chorus octet from Synergy Vocals and a children's chorus. Integrated with Andriessen's score are a series of electronic soundscapes by the young Dutch composer Anke Brouwer.

"Irony is what generates the drama in my opera – a satirical view of heaven and hell in our everyday life."

Andriessen on his new work

"I see Dante's *La Commedia* as one of the highest points ever reached in literature and philosophy. It combines complexity, intellectualism, horror, beauty, multi-layering, allusions, historical and mythological references, and, above all, irony. I selected sequences of material in the same order as in Dante's book. So the first two scenes take us from the City of Dis down through Inferno to the deepest regions of hell where we meet Lucifer in the third part. This is where Adam's Fall is described. We then pass upward through the lighter-hearted Garden of Earthly Delights until we reach Paradise in the final section, Eternal Light."

De Materie
De Doelen, Rotterdam
29 May 2008, 8.15 pm
Concertgebouw, Amsterdam
4 June 2008, 8.15 pm

As an upbeat to the premiere of *La Commedia*, Reinbert de Leeuw conducts the Asko and Schoenberg Ensembles in concert performances of *De Materie* in Rotterdam (29 May) and Amsterdam (4 June). Andriessen's future works include a new double piano concerto for the Labeque Sisters to be premiered with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Esa-Pekka Salonen in January 2009.

Andriessen interview

To read the full interview with Louis Andriessen on *La Commedia*, visit the news section of his website at: www.boosey.com/andriessen

contact information

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