

Michel van der Aa



Michel van der Aa 2007 © Marco Borggreve

ENSEMBLE AND CHAMBER WITH VOICE(S)

Here [in circles]

2002

15 min

for soprano and ensemble

Text: Michel van der Aa (E)

cl.bcl.tpt-perc(1)-strings(1.1.1.1.1.1); small cassette recorder (eg Sony TCM-939)

World Premiere: 03 Sep 2002

Amsterdam, Netherlands

Barbara Hannigan, soprano; Asko Ensemble

Conductor: Etienne Siebens

ENSEMBLE AND CHAMBER WITH VOICE(S) 1

Here [to be found]

2001

18 min

for soprano, chamber orchestra and soundtrack

Text: Michel van der Aa (E)

0.0.1.1-0.1.1.0-perc(1)-strings(6.6.6.4.2)-soundtrack(laptop, 1 player)

"The highlight of this Musiktage... Here [to be found] contains cantilenas sung beautifully by soprano Barbara Hannigan. The music flows organically and is of exquisite simplicity. After the preceding examples of aimless syntax and compositional convulsions, Here [to be found] was a true blessing." (Stefan Hoffmann, Die Welt, 23 Oct 2001)

"One could say that Michel van der Aa poses the best questions during these Donaueschinger Musiktage, both to himself and to the music. For example: how can I best express what I want to say? And, worthy of a true craftsman, not only: how do I build a tower?, but also: how do I then get out of the tower? How can I say the 'old' is new again? Van der Aa's piece is called Here [to be found] and the title does not promise too much." (Mirko Weber, Stuttgarter Zeitung, 23 Oct 2001)

"Success for Van der Aa at the Donaueschinger Festival. It's beautiful how the airy string chords precede Van der Aa's quiet poem. He knows how to freeze a scene, create a vacuum. The theatricality in turbulent figures comes across very well. The same is true for the ending, where the synchronicity of the voice, the orchestra and the soundtrack gradually disintegrates. The piece was very successful with this select audience that included many composers, programmers and publishers." (Ernst Vermeulen, NRC, 22 Oct 2001)

"An impressive work... The sound of the electronic soundtrack melted with the orchestra and the soprano, and 'mechanical switch' sounds send into the hall through loudspeakers triggered the orchestra to start and stop. There we finally had the idea that we were listening to 'state of the art' Dutch music and for a moment it lifted the festival [Netherlands Music Days] above its provincial level." (Anthony Fiumara, Trouw, 17 Dec 2001)

World Premiere: 20 Oct 2001

Donaueschinger, Germany

Barbara Hannigan, soprano; Netherlands Radio Chamber Orchestra

Conductor: Peter Eötvös

Here Trilogy

Here [enclosed], Here [in circles], Here [to be found]

2001-2003

50 min

for soprano and ensemble

"Van der Aa's Here trilogy is a tightrope walk between different styles. In this work for soprano, the 34 year old Dutch composer explored the subject matter – separation, paralysis, isolation – in an astonishing manner. As in the cult film The Matrix, he evoked an unstable illusion of reality through snapping noises, sudden breaks and unexpected flashbacks. A striking moment was the outstanding soprano Barbara Hannigan's recording of herself on a tape recorder. Singing earlier passages anew, accompanying herself in a duet and almost casually demonstrating her superbly confident intonation, she caught the listeners by surprise. The chamber orchestra too, formed by the Dutch Asko and Schönberg Ensembles under Reinbert de Leeuw, produced a brilliant performance." (Ulrich Pollmann, Märkische Allgemeine, 29 Sep 2004)

9790202531709 **Soprano, Ensemble (Score)**

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