

Olga Neuwirth



Olga Neuwirth Photo © Priska Ketterer

ENSEMBLE AND CHAMBER WITH VOICE(S)

The Cartographer Song

2006

5 min

for soprano, two clarinets, viola, cello and double bass

Text: Stephanie Fleischmann (from: 'Hotel Carter') (E)

World Premiere: 20 Jun 2006

Jubilee Hall, Aldeburgh, United Kingdom

Mary Wiegold, soprano; Composers Ensemble

Conductor: Christopher Austin

... ce qui arrive...

Szenische Momentaufnahme nach Paul Auster, mit Film- und Raumkonzept von Don 2004

55 min

for voice, video, tape and ensemble

Text: text and voice: Paul Auster; song texts: Andrew Patner, Georgette Dee (E-G); film and virtual room: Dominique Gonzales-Foerster

Group I:

ssax.tsax.bn-hn.tpt(=piccpt).tbn-perc(1):cym(med)/SD/2crot/glass/tam-t(med)/gong/tim p(C)/cowbell/tgl/1tom-t(lg)/1claves-vln;

Group II: fl(=picc).ob.cl(=bcl)-elec.gtr-elec.pft-vla.vlc.db

(ob and hn doubling children's tpt and mouth org);

live electronics

"Neuwirth's "...ce qui arrive..." combines a taped autobiographical monologue spoken by Paul Auster with an orchestral soundscape (performed by the awesome Ensemble Modern) augmented by electronic samples and an amazingly synchronised video [by Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster] of the transgendered chanteuse Georgette Dee... Somewhere over the rainbow of Auster's banal-sounding fables... the work becomes inexplicably profound... Neuwirth's music is not easy, but rarely is an intellectual challenge so enjoyable. Her dazzling sonic combinations strike nerves and funny bones." (Larry L. Lash / James Woodall, Financial Times, 03 Nov 2004)

"Olga Neuwirth has for a long time been Austria's best, most curious and consequential composer... Paul Auster's murmurs came from all directions, a recitation virtually on one note that melted again and again blissfully with the sounds of the Ensemble Modern... Neuwirth creates out of Andrew Patner's poetry three songs à la Kurt Weill in the swell of her rich primeval music... On the video Georgette Dee scrambles in front of the screen, sings, plays with veils, and mutates into a man. Whatever colour appears is overlaid upon the image of the coast that subsequently plunges into darkness. But Olga Neuwirth continually counterpoints the video performer and the suspicion of the cultured person, leading towards the never resting powers of nature..." (Reinhard J. Brembeck, Süddeutsche Zeitung, 23/24 Oct 2004)

"Georgette Dee... seems like an icon of desire, expectation become body and soul. Olga Neuwirth composed three songs for her in the style of Kurt Weill, a study of perfection in terms of their workmanship. In the course of the work the listener is treated to buzzing and clinking noises, sounds as of ice floes superimposing one another – a both tender and harsh cluster symphony with individual melodies bubbling to the surface in between. If listeners are ready to act as resonators, an existential experience awaits them, which is no less than a life poised between happiness and disaster, hope and desperation, transposed into the realm of art." (Ulrich Weinzierl, Die Welt, 04 Nov 2004)

World Premiere: 21 Oct 2004

Helmut-List-Halle, Graz, Austria

Georgette Dee, special appearance; Ensemble Modern

Conductor: Franck Ollu

ecstaloop

2001

20 min

for soprano, speaker, sampler and ensemble

Text: Stephanie Fleischmann, Ivetta Gerasimchuk, Banana Yoshimoto, Craig Raine, Kathrin Röggl (E-G)

1(=picc).1.1.bcl.0-1.1(=piccpt).1.btrbn.0-perc(1):Turk.cym(med)/SD/vib/gong/3crot/1tim p(D)/5cowbells/1tuned beer bottle(A)-sampler-vln.vla.vlc.db

"Neuwirth loves directness, obstinacy, clear-cut shapes in the creation of her dense, often staggering mixture of sound, noise and text, as in the quasi musical theatre work ecstaloop. There are sudden, violent moments as well as meditative ones, with the general air ranging from almost brutal noise to whispering or whining." (Wolfgang Schreiber, Süddeutsche Zeitung, 15 Oct 2002)

World Premiere: 24 Oct 2001

Burghof, Lörrach, Switzerland

Isolde Siebert, soprano / Lucas Rössner, speaker; Ensemble 14

Conductor: Joachim Krause

No more secrets, no more lies

2004

9 min

for voice and ensemble

Text: Andrew Patner and Georgette Dee (E-G)

tsax/ssax-tpt.trbn-perc(1):BD/cym(med)/SD/2tom-t(hi,lo)/1crot-elec.gtr-elec.bass-elec.pf t-vlc(amp)

World premiere of version: 31 Oct 2004

Konzerthaus, Mozart-Saal, Wien, Austria

Andrew Watts, counter tenor; Klangforum Wien

Conductor: Johannes Kalitzke