

Stowarzyszenie Artystyczne
"Muzyka Centrum"
Akademia Muzyczna w Krakowie
Bunkier Sztuki

Festiwal Audio Art'08

Xala

(Berno)

Ania Losinger

kompozycja/choreografia
podłoga marimba, taniec

Matthias Eser

kompozycja marimba/perkusja



Five Elements

piątek, 28 listopada 2008, godz. 21.00
Bunkier Sztuki

projekt zrealizowano przy wsparciu finansowym:
Pro Helvetia

Ministerstwa Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego
Gminy Kraków

Xala to nazwa pierwszego na świecie ksylofonu podłogowego, na którym wykonywanie muzyki odbywa się poprzez taniec. Ten unikalny instrument został skonstruowany w latach 1998/99 przez tancerkę i muzyka Anię Losinger we współpracy z z konstruktorem i projektantem instrumentów muzycznych Hamperem von Niederhäusern.

Xala składa się z 24 strojonych drewnianych i metalowych paneli o powierzchni 4,5 m² i wadze 400 kg. Granie na instrumencie odbywa się w obuwiu stiosowanych do tanca flamenco, dwóch żerdzi drewnianych i innych metod uderzania. Xala jest podstawą wielu projektów Ani Losinger wykonywanych na całym świecie.

Xala is the name of the first floor xylophone in the world to be played by dancing. This unique instrument was created in 1998/99 by dancer and music performer Ania Losinger in cooperation with inventor and instrument designer Hamper von Niederhäusern. Composed of 24 chiming wooden and metal bars, with a total area of 4.5 square meters and a weight of 400 kilograms, this acoustic instrument is played using Flamenco shoes, 6ft.high poles and other striking mechanisms. The Xala is the essential part of various productions with Ania Losinger, which are being showcased and marketed around the world.

An extremely simple yet fascinating synthesis of music and movement has been achieved with the development and construction of the Xala. Playing together congenially, on unique instruments and inspired by the archetypical Far Eastern cycle of the five elements, the two artists create never before heard acoustic imagery. They define form with rhythmic motifs, design surfaces with subtle timbres and develop perspectives with their dynamic interplay. Music and dance merge into a single entity. A breathtaking concert-performance which transports the audience into new timescapes.

Two room-pervading instruments
The dancer and musician Ania Losinger dances on and plays the first floor-xylophone in the world – Xala. She created this unique instrument in 1998/99 in collaboration with instrument designer Hamper von Niederhäusern. The Xala is played using Flamenco shoes and 6ft.high poles.

The marimba is Matthias Eser's central instrument, complemented by drums, cymbals and asian gongs. The accord between these two instruments reveals a broad spectrum which ranges from soft, poetic chamber music to the magical energy of an orchestra.

The Five Elements or Phases of Transformation
Both artists cherish a great interest in repetitive cycles and polymetric rhythms and in their effects and expressiveness. In the cycle of the elements: earth, metal, water, wood and fire (wu - xing = 5 – going/moving), which have their origin in Chinese medicine and natural philosophy, they find an inspirational model for their compositions. The music follows the circular cycle of this concept. This enables them to begin the concert with any of the five parts. Chinese numerology assigns each of the five elements two specific numbers which represent the energies and principles of the phases of transformation.

The basic, underlying rhythmic-metric patterns of "The Five Elements" are built on this. The harmonics, timbre, movement and dynamics are influenced of the numerous terms that are associated with each element.

Ania Losinger

Born in Bern (Switzerland) in 1970, Ania Losinger is following her dream, that of finding a creative form of expression that unites dance and music, in equal measure, in a single person.

She acquired basic athletic training in the National Rhythmic Gymnastics Squad. Afterwards she practiced various dance forms until she became acquainted with flamenco dance. Many years of flamenco training in Switzerland followed, as well as several trips to learn flamenco in Spain. She studied rhythmic at the Conservatory in Zurich, worked as a rhythmic and piano teacher, accompanied modern dance classes on the piano and gave flamenco lessons. From 1997 to 1999 she was engaged as a dancer in the dance company "Flamencos en route". Together with instrument maker Hamper von Niederhäusern, she developed the floor xylophone XALA, an instrument that could be danced on. Thus she fulfilled her desire to find a sensually abstract synthesis of music and movement. She developed her first solo programme "Soneto" (Director: Christian Mattis), and travelled throughout Europe with it. In 2001 she produced her first solo CD, "Ania Losinger XALA" (Tonus-Music-Records), together with composer and producer Don Li. National and international guest performances of the "Ania Losinger XALA" CD live concert followed.

A selection of additional productions with Xala: Tonus-Music for Xala and symphony orchestra / 2003; Live projects: "The Longest Journey" / 2003 and "Time-Experience" / 2003; DVD "New Ballet For Xala" / 2004 (Compositions: Don Li, Tonus-Music-Records).

Thanks to continuous research in collaboration with Hamper von Niederhäusern, the new xala with a more refined sound and tone came into being. Together with Matthias Eser, Ania Losinger composed the piece "The Five Elements" for the new xala and marimba/percussions (composition commissioned by Pro Helvetia). This performance is being presented since 2006 at festivals, in theatres and concert halls throughout Europe and Russia.

Matthias Eser

Born in Zurich (Switzerland) in 1964, Matthias Eser is a musician, composer and producer whose creativity encompasses a large stylistic spectrum and who has developed a distinctive and unmistakable musical flair. The focus of his interest lies in the wealth of percussive sounds and the ability to artistically set them in a musical context.

His studies of classical percussion at the Conservatory in Zurich were followed by lively work as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestra musician (Tonhalle and Opernhaus Zurich, 1991 to 2006 solo percussionist and timpanist in the Orchester Musikkollegium Winterthur). Additional training with the vibraphonists Antony Kerr (London) and David Friedmann (Berlin). He became a member of the "ensemble für neue musik zürich" and is founding member of the "Schweizer Schlagzeug Ensemble".

This led him to collaborate actively with composers for contemporary music and to engage in a large number of first performances and CD-productions. As a performer of his own and other works he appeared all over Europe, Asia and South America.

His current musical activities are focused on the groups and musical concepts that he has been pursuing for many years. These include the duo-projects together with Ania Losinger, the pop/jazz band Lyn Leon with Stephan Diethelm and New York singer Carolyn Leonhart, Nik Bärtsch's group Mobile, the saxophonist Christoph Merki's jazz group Music 01 and various groups of the musician and composer Don Li (Tonus-Music).