

WIGMORE HALL

Saturday 7 May 2022 12.00pm

In Focus: Anna Thorvaldsdottir in association with RNCM

RNCM
ROYAL NORTHERN
COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Clara Hope Simpson cello

Emily Brown-Gibson soprano

Evi Wang piano

Matthew Jones flute, bass flute

RNCM New Ensemble

Daniel Jacob-Ormsen flute, alto flute

Robyn Saunders bass clarinet

Beatriz Carvalho bassoon

Thomas Hutchison horn

Robyn Saunders bass clarinet

Daniel Gribbin baritone saxophone

Beatriz Carvalho contrabassoon

Xinjie Yang conductor

Mark Heron conductor

Ross McDonnell trombone

Thomas Hall percussion

Evi Wang piano

Nathan Fenwick violin

Nathan Fenwick violin

Susanna Ward viola

Neil Sild cello

Ravi Nathwani guitar

Dylan Edge violin

Susanna Ward viola

Neil Sild cello

Marcus de Oliveira F da Silva double bass

Anna Thorvaldsdottir (b.1977)

Transitions (2014)

Hvolf (2009)

Bið • Hvolf

Sequences (2013)

Spectra (2017)

Rain (2010)

Entropic Arrows (2019)

Aequilibria (2014)

Clara Hope Simpson cello

Emily Brown-Gibson soprano • Evi Wang piano

Matthew Jones bass flute • Robyn Saunders bass clarinet
Daniel Gribbin baritone saxophone • Beatriz Carvalho contrabassoon
Xinjie Yang conductor

Nathan Fenwick violin • Susanna Ward viola • Neil Sild cello

Emily Brown-Gibson soprano • Matthew Jones flute
Ravi Nathwani guitar

RNCM New Ensemble

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Transitions (2014)

Transitions was commissioned by cellist Michael Nicolas, who suggested the work's theme of 'man and machine'. These characteristics are embodied by the solo cello in sharply contrasting musical material. As its title suggests, the piece focuses on the transition between these states and the blurring between them.

Hvolf (2009)

Please see song sheet for texts and translations.

Sequences (2013)

This piece for bass flute, bass clarinet, baritone saxophone and contrabassoon was written for International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE) for the ICEcommons Project and the New York Public Library and first performed in 2013 at Kaldalón Hall, Harpa Centre, Reykjavik. In her preface to the score, Thorvaldsdottir writes to the performers: 'with tranquillity and expressive pulsation'.

Spectra (2017)

Spectra was commissioned by the NJORD New Nordic Music Biennale in Copenhagen, Denmark and premièred there by members of the Copenhagen Piano Quartet in 2018. The piece is in six short movements that are performed in a seamless flow from one to the next.

Rain (2010)

Rain was first performed at the Skálholt Summer Concerts in Iceland in 2010 by Tiffany DuMouchelle (soprano), Berglind María Tómasdóttir (flute) and Pablo Gómez Cano (guitar). Rather than using a text, the vocal part is formed from vowel sounds intended to communicate on a purely musical level beyond language.

Entropic Arrows (2019)

Entropic Arrows was commissioned by the New European Ensemble, who first performed it as part of a portrait concert in the Hague in March 2020.

Aequilibria (2014)

When I take inspiration from nature in my music it is not something I am trying to describe through the music - to me, the qualities of the music are first and foremost musical. When I am inspired by a particular element or quality, it is because I perceive it as musically interesting, and the qualities I tend to be inspired by are often structural, like proportion and flow, as well as relationships of balance between details within a larger structure, and how to move in perspective between the two – the details and the unity of the whole. In the case of *Aequilibria*, this piece was inspired by various states of balancing forces – the natural breath between expansion and contraction, and the perspectives of translucence and opacity.

Aequilibria programme note by Anna Thorvaldsdottir

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Join us after the concert for:

Saturday 7 May 2022 2.15pm

Elizabeth Alker in conversation with Anna Thorvaldsdottir

Anna is joined by Elizabeth Alker to give a closer insight into her music.

Anna Thorvaldsdóttir (b.1977)

Hvolf (2009)

Dome

Bið

Wait

Fyrir utan
vínalegt tré
me! útbreiddan faðm
á kalkvegg
einmana
og fótkauldur
engill
sem bíður.

Outside
a friendly tree
arms outstretched
on a limestone wall
a lonely
footweary
angel
that waits

Hvolf

Dome

Eiðsvarinn næturkór
Norðurljós
Strokinn hörpustrengur.

Night choir under oath
northern lights
shivering harp string

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