

840

NEW MUSIC FOR CELLO AND PIANO

21/09/18 7.30pm St James' Islington, N1 8PF



Music by Laurence Crane / Christian Wolff /
Anton Lukoszevieze / James Luff /
Darya Zvezdina / Alex Nikiporenko /
Linda Catlin Smith / Michael Winter

Anton Lukoszevieze *Cello*
Alex Nikiporenko *Piano*

eightforty.co.uk

Christian Wolff
Small Pieces for Cellist

Darya Zvezdina
n

James Luff
line

Alex Nikiporenko
86 Permutations of Melancholia

Linda Catlin Smith
Ricercar

INTERVAL

Anton Lukoszevieze
What we really want to do is serve happiness

Laurence Crane
Five Preludes

Michael Winter
curved bow and negative

David Mahler
Quiet Report

Laurence Crane
Raimondas Rumsas

**Christian Wolff – Small Pieces for Cellist
(solo cello, 2018)**

These are dedicated to Anton Lukoszevieze, in friendship and admiration for his playing and organizing the first-rate performing of new work.

There are five pieces. In the first, second and fifth there are phrase sequences with free pauses between them. There are also notations for just dynamics (sounds free), and for just rhythms (free sounds). The third and fourth pieces are on grids of 6 x 6 and 8 x 8 bars, allowing continuities to be chosen in variously free ways.

**Darya Zvezdina – n
(solo cello, 2018)**

The piece represents the kind of reconstruction of the memory which for a very long time is not a memory anymore.

**James Luff – line
(solo cello, 2018)**

'Drawing is taking a line for a walk' - Paul Klee

I wrote this short piece in the same way a visual artist might work on a drawing, keeping the whole thing in view and working on any part of it in any order. A simple descending scale forms the backbone, which I wrote out so that it covered a single page of A3 paper. I then proceeded to add interruptions and insertions across the page as felt appropriate, applying each in a way that was both somewhat systematic and also highly subjective.

jamesluff.co.uk

**Alex Nikiporenko – 86 Permutations of Melancholia
(cello and piano, 2016)**

My good friend and student Roberta shares with me a certain fascination with numerology. There is even a reproduction of a magic square (an arrangement of numbers where rows, columns and diagonals add up to the same sum) on one of the walls in her house – the square that appears in Melancholia, an engraving by Albrecht Dürer.

When tasked with writing a piece in celebration of Roberta's 50th birthday, I decided to compose it using a simple process based on this magic square.

The cello part goes through the rows and then columns of the square, each number represented by a note from a numbered chromatic scale. The piano part goes through the square's 86 possible solutions, the numbers translated into notes from the major scales starting on the notes played by the cello.

alexnikiporenko.com

**Linda Catlin Smith – Ricercar
(solo cello, 2015)**

I love the sound of the Baroque cello, so I was very excited to write a piece for Elinor Frey, (commissioned by Daniel Cooper). I think of this piece as a melody in search of its harmony. The first part of the work explores a dance-like line; later the melody is lost into a place of utter spareness and stillness – almost like coming to terms with one's innermost qualities – and later again there is the appearance of a melodic chain of rich chords. My thanks go to Elinor Frey for suggesting the title (the word "Ricercar" means "to search out"), and for her beautiful interpretation of my music.

catlinsmith.com

**Anton Lukoszevieze – What we really want to do is
serve happiness
(solo piano, 2014)**

Written for Mark Knoop, in memory of Michael Harrison.

The title is taken from a text written by the artist Agnes Martin, which is basically a series of Taoist musings on what is important in life. The piano spells out each rhythmic iteration of the sentence, slowly and with a 'hidden' evolving harmonic system.

antonlukoszevieze.co.uk

**Laurence Crane – Five Preludes
(cello and piano, 1985)**

I composed this set of short pieces for a concert in London that took place in June 1985. It's now the earliest work that I still acknowledge.

**Michael Winter – curved bow and negative
(solo cello, 2017)**

In *curved bow and negative*, all strings are bowed throughout while each string oscillates between two states (which the "negative" in the title refers to) as indicated by the following instruction:

"In the score, each line of the staff represents one of the cello strings. A filled diamond notehead indicates that the respective string be played open. An unfilled diamond notehead indicates that the string be slightly touched resulting in either string noise or a harmonic..."

The amount of change between the two states for a given string is continually changing as the large-scale form of the piece is determined by an algorithm that enumerates different combinations of temporal densities among the strings.

unboundedpress.org

**David Mahler – Quiet Report
(solo cello)**

David Mahler is an American composer, born in 1944, based in Seattle. He has composed mainly chamber works, songs, choral and piano music. A significant part of his work has been the tape pieces, which are glorious in their humour and experimentation with the human voice. *Quiet Report* is a movement from a small set of cello pieces called *Report on Four Strings*.

**Laurence Crane – Raimondas Rumsas
(solo cello, 2002)**

Raimondas Rumsas was commissioned for Anton Lukoszevics by the Ultima Festival in Oslo and first performed at the 2002 festival. Earlier that year Anton purchased a curved bow, which allows him to play 3 or 4 strings at once. He set about commissioning composers to write new works to be played with a curved bow. I worked closely with him to learn what was possible to do with the bow; we worked in his studio, which at that time was an old railway signal box parked in his garden. The piece lasts nearly six minutes and has been recorded by both Anton (on Another Timbre) and Oliver Coates (on Prah Recordings).

PERFORMERS

Anton Lukoszevieze – Cello

Anton is a cellist, composer, improviser, inter-disciplinary artist, and founder and director of the group Apartment House.

He has commissioned over 70 new works and performed concerti with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the Netherlands Radio Symphony Orchestra. He is the subject of seven films by the renowned artist filmmaker Jayne Parker, commissioned by the Arts Council of Great Britain in 2000-2007. He is also notable for his use of the curved bow (BACH-Bogen), which he is using to develop new repertoire.

His group Apartment House are one of Europe's leading ensembles for the performance of contemporary and experimental music. In 2012, he received a Royal Philharmonic Society Award for Outstanding Contribution to Chamber Music and Song. In 2008, Anton received the Millenium Star Award from the government of the Republic of Lithuania, for services to culture.

antonlukoszevieze.co.uk

Alex Nikiporenko – Piano

Born in Moscow in 1990, Alex Nikiporenko is a London-based composer. He received his formal education at King's College London and the Royal College of Music, and has studied privately with Laurence Crane.

Named BBC/Guardian Young Composer of the Year in 2008, Alex became a Creative in Residence at The Hospital Club in 2009. His music has been broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and Resonance FM. Modus Triplex, for the Tre Voci cello trio, was nominated for the 2016 BASCA British Composer Award and features on Nonclassical's 'Outside the Lines' EP.

Alex co-curates 840, an experimental music concert series and collaborates with Arbonauts, a multi-disciplinary performance group.

alexnikiporenko.com



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