Philip CZAPŁOWSKI

in memoriam

Krzysztof Penderecki (1933 – 2020)

2021

solo harpsichord





Philip Czapłowski was born in London in 1958, but has lived in Melbourne, Australia since 1969. He studied music at Melbourne and La Trobe Universities, before completing a PhD in music composition at Monash University in 2007. In 2005 Czapłowski also attended the Academy of Music in Kraków, Poland.

Performers of Czapłowski's music include the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, the New York Miniaturist Ensemble, Orquestra Antunes Câmara, Australia Pro Arte (now the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra), the Canberra Wind Soloists, the Chamber Strings of Melbourne, the Geelong Chamber Orchestra, the Australian Chamber Soloists, Australia Felix, and many other Australian and international musicians

His music has featured in numerous festivals including the Encuentros Festival Internacional (Brazil 1995), International Double-Reed Society Conference (Arizona 1998), Federation Music Week (Melbourne 2000), Sonorities Festival of Contemporary Music (Belfast 2003), Szymanowski Festival 2003 (XXVI Dni Muzyki Karola Szymanowskiego, Poland), International Double-Reed Society Conference (Melbourne 2004), the Melbourne International Festival of Single Reeds (2005), the Cortona Contemporary Music Festival (Tuscany, Italy 2006), Karhofest (Karho Island, Finland 2017), the 7th European Clarinet Festival (Porto, Portugal 2017), the International Festival of Kraków Composers (Kraków, Poland 2018), the 5th International Clarinet Festival (Lima, Peru 2019), the Elzbieta Chojnacka Festival (Tarnowskie Góry, Poland 2019) and the Gorczycki Festiwal (Tarnowskie Góry, Poland 2020).

In addition to Australian performances, Czapłowski's music has been performed in Poland, the USA, England, Finland, Austria, The Netherlands, Germany, Argentina, Brazil, Ireland, Romania, Italy, Peru and New Zealand, and his works have been broadcast by RAI Italy, Polski Radio Katowice, ABC Classic FM, ABC Radio National, 3MBS FM, Southern FM and Radio Adelaide.

in memoriam

for solo harpsichord was written for Polish harpsichordist Hanna Balcerzak and completed in August 2021.

When I was about 18 years old, I began to study composition with Felix Werder. Up to that point the most modern music I had been exposed to was that of Prokofiev, and it was Felix who introduced me to contemporary music, and in particular the enormous contribution that Polish composers had made, especially in the second half of the twentieth-century.

Foremost amongst these was Krzysztof Penderecki (1933 - 2020), whose unique sound world was a revelation. Although my music no longer tries to emulate that of the great master, his recent death saddened me greatly, and I wrote this piece in his memory.

Playing instructions

Accidentals apply throughout the bar unless cancelled by another accidental, and only in the octave in which they occur.

Duration: About 6'30"

in memoriam

Philip Czaplowski (1958)













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