



Stevie Wishart is a composer, performer and improviser. She explores medieval and contemporary extremes, using voices, ancient technologies such as the hurdy gurdy, and electronic music technologies of our own time. She has composed for modern orchestras and vocal groups and for her own group, Sinfonye. As a composer she works acoustically with music notation, sometimes combined with improvisation, sometimes using computer music systems, and sometimes using all these elements.

Education and academic work

Stevie Wishart studied composition and electronic music at the University of York with Trevor Wishart and Richard Orton, as well as improvised and aleatoric music with John Cage and David Tudor in Edinburgh. She continued postgraduate performance studies in early music (baroque violin and voice) at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (Diploma in Advanced Performance) and with a Nuffield Foundation award and a Vicente Cañada Blanch Junior Research Fellowship at the University of Oxford (Degree of MLitt) for research into medieval musical iconography.

Invited for a number of composer residences and fellowships, she has presented her work at IRCAM in Paris; the Institute for Music and Acoustics in the ZKM (Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie) in Karlsruhe, Germany; the ADK, Akademie der Künste, in Berlin, and Mills College in California. She received a Wellcome Trust award to develop her compositions using musical gestures and sound-to-control computers, and to work at the University of Cambridge with the neuroscientist Ian Winter on audio processes based on the physiology of the ear.

She is currently a Visiting Music Fellow at the University of Cambridge with the AHRC Research Centre for Musical Performance as Creative Practice (CMPCP).

Performances and other activities

Stevie has performed at London's Wigmore Hall, the BBC Proms, the Purcell Room, the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the ICA and the Sydney Opera House, and extensively throughout Europe, the USA, and Australia. Her concerts have been broadcast by BBC Radio 3, Radio France, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, ORF, German Radio Networks, and Klara Radio Belgium VRT. Performances and composing commissions at major festivals include those for the Festival van Vlaanderen and Styriarte. She has also performed her compositions for Pope Benedict XVI at St

Peter's, Rome, and for RAI tv. Contemporary music recordings include those with Fred Frith, John Tilbury, the Art Zoyd Studio, and Ensemble Musiques Nouvelles.

Other activities have included an education project for the Britten Sinfonia; acting as music consultant to the Royal Shakespeare Company; and as the European Music Correspondent for ABC, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. She has been on the panel of judges for the MA Festival in Bruges, and for the York Early Music Festival, and has featured on a number of radio programmes for the BBC as well as guest television commentator for BBC PROMS. Stevie also played a major role in 'Take the Risk', a special weekend at London's Southbank exploring improvisation in early music, in which was a performance of her composition 'Transients' for voices and medieval and modern instruments.

Recent major works

'Iced', for orchestra and Theremin, was given in 2005, commissioned by Belgian groups Ensemble Musique Nouvelle and Art Zoyd.

'The Sound of Gesture', a project developing an interface with specially commissioned sensors and software for solo violin and computer, was developed at ZKM and ADK. It was first performed live in Aalst, Belgium in 2010 as part of an installation, and was recorded at ZKM for release on cd/dvd.

For the 2011 Proms Stevie was commissioned by the BBC to write a major choral work. 'Out of this world' was premiered that year by the BBC Singers conducted by Robert Hollingworth, and was described in the media as "among the finest of this year's new [BBC] commissions" (TheArtsDesk 2011)

Stevie composed 'Vespers for St. Hildegard' in honour of the canonisation of Hildegard of Bingen. A full-length concert version for choir and instrumental ensemble was premiered in York Minster at the 2013 York Early Music Festival, and a version was recorded for release on CD by Decca, co-produced with Guy Sigsworth.

Also a composer for dance, she has written for Margie Medlin, Compagnie Michèle Noiret and Wayne McGregor. She has worked with other major creative artists such as designer Philippe Starck.

Current commissions

Stevie Wishart 'Cantata for the Seasons' was given its world premiere at Snape Maltings in April 2014. Other current major projects include a Concerto Grosso, a double bass concerto, jointly commissioned for Chi-chi Nwanoku and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Rob Nairn and the Handel & Haydn Society, to be premiered in Boston and at London's Southbank Centre in the 2014/15 season.

[word count : 808]

Note: Not to be used if more than 3 months old | for update please contact **LOGANARTS Management**

May 2014