

JOHN KING

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PROFESSIONAL COMMISSIONS/PREMIERES

2013 -

Free Palestine – (currently 40 min) on-going multi-movement set of pieces for acoustic string quartet, inspired by arabic pitch and rhythmic modal systems

solo for cello and electronics – (14 min) – notated/improvised solo w/chance-determined live electronics

Requiem Mass – (50 min) a cappella mixed choral work, complete setting of the mass

guitarganum – (50 min) on-going solo elec guitar and live electronics/sampler (using ableton LIVE) and Electro-Harmonix 16 sec delay pedal and ebow, modal music improvisations based on gregorian/greek/arabic scales and modes

triple helix – (20 min) violin duo commissioned by the group String Noise

ping - (12 min) – micro-opera using the text of Samuel Beckett, to be premiered in Feb. 2014 as part of the “Experiments in Opera” festival, solo voice with small percussion, and viola, at Abrons Art Center, NYC

KOSMOS part III – (~60 min) for string quartet and live electronics (third section of 4-hour work)

Piano Vectors part I and II – (flexible indeterminate duration ~40 min each part) – for 6 pianos, recorded version of part I, performed by Jenny Lin and Laura Barger (work-in-progress)

AURAI – (flexible indeterminate duration ~20 min) large string orchestra

C-H-A-C-O-N-N-E – 15 min – chaconne for solo violin, premiered by Pauline Kim Harris at Rockwood Music Hall, NYC, June 30

KATHARSOS - (flexible indeterminate duration ~30 min) for percussion quartet, written for So Percussion

2012 -

KOSMOS part I1 – (~60 min) for string quartet and live electronics (second section of 4-hour work); premiered at Roulette by the Crucible Quartet, on Dec. 7

impropera – (60 min) chance-determined libretto/sound/video opera, for 3 singers, live electronics and live video, premiered at The Cell Theater, Oct 21, performed by John King; with Gelsey Bell, Samita Sinha and Maria Stankova, voices

Apotheosis of Virginity – 60 min – live sound installation for the gallery show by David Lamelas at Maccarone Gallery, Jan 10, performed by John King

(climax in) the Deserts of Love – for soprano and orchestra, based on a fragment of the Arthur Rimbaud prose, premiered at Roulette on Dec. 7, Melissa Fogarty, soprano

D4G15 – electric guitar quartet, written for the 4 graduate composition students at Dartmouth College, premiered at Spheris Gallery, Hanover, NH, May 19

light (8 min) – commissioned by the Brooklyn Youth Chorus, premiered at Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral, Brooklyn Dec. 14

Hamlet-Music (1hr 40 min) – commissioned by the Stuttgart Ballet, evening length ballet, for orchestra and live electronics, in 2 acts, North American premiere June 1, National Ballet of Canada

LublinMix – 24 min (flex. duration) – for piano and 1-4 string instruments, recorded by Amanda Lo and John King

Sight-Specificity – live electronic music for the site specific choreography by Stephan Koplowitz choreographer, performed by John King, Spoleto Festival, July 7-8,

RAGTAG – (10 min) for 2 pianos, premiered Greenwich House Music School, nov 29

doppelgängerbanger (15 min) – commissioned by Ana Milosavljevic, for violin and live electronics, premiered May 18th, Tribeca New Music Festival

Muse Cast Aside War (5 min) – commissioned by the Brooklyn Youth Chorus, premiered at Brooklyn Academy of Music, May 5

DELTA (dreamdeepdown) – ensemble version of electronic piece written for Stuttgart Ballet, version written for Ne(x)works ensemble, premiered at Greenwich House Music School

2011 –

Astral Epitaphs (15') – for brass sextet, choir and live electronics, premiered at the Park Avenue Armory as part of the final concerts of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Dec. 29-31, New York City, NY commissioned by MCDC

KOSMOS part1 – for string quartet and live electronics (first section of 4-hour work); commissioned by Lincoln Center Festival; premiere NYC, July 16

Himmel über Berlin/Wings of Desire (80') – songs and incidental music for the theatrical adaptation of the Wim Wenders film of the same name; commissioned by the ClussGarten Theater, premiered June 15 (running through July), Ludwigsburg, Germany

Prima Volta (8') – solo violin and live electronics, commissioned by Cornelius Dufallo; will premiere in October 2011 at The Bargemusic Series, New York City, NY

Unfolding Time (90') – evening length ballet for mixed ensemble, commissioned by the Mannheim Ballet, Kevin O'Day choreographer; will premiere November 12; Mannheim, Germany

2010 –

3 Modes à la π – for live electric guitar and live electronics, premiered at The Banff Centre, Canada, July 20, 2010, commissioned by The Banff Centre, Ballet BC and Mannheim Ballet

SAPPHO presto chango – for soprano and chamber group, premiered at Roulette, NYC, May 15, 2010

Dice Thrown– opera; for full orchestra, 3 singers, 6 dancers, live video and live electronics, premiered at California Institute of the Arts, LA, CA; April 23-24, 2010

Duelocity– for 2 prepared pianos, commissioned by the Bugallo/Williams duo, premiered at Cal State University Fullerton, March 9, 2010

2009 –

Winds of Blood – for string quartet and live electronics, premiered at The Kitchen, NYC, April 3-4

MA/NY – for the Love of it – full evening, for the Mannheim Ballet, for a mixed improvising chamber group with live electronics, premiered May 19

The Li(f)e of Galileo – an opera after the play by Bertolt Brecht, for chamber choir, string quartet, live electronics, video and actor, premiered at the Teatro La Plata, Argentina, July 29-Aug 2

2008 –

Hamlet-Music – commissioned by the Stuttgart Ballet, for orchestra and live electronics, in 2 acts, premiered Oct 3

Dice Thrown – opera, excerpt premiered at Skirball Center, NYC on May 10 as part of the New York City Opera's VOX 2008 series

Rivers of Fire – string quartet and live electronics, premiered Feb. 19 at The Stone, NYC

2007 –

Rubai'yat 1-23 – written for Jenny Lin; piano and live electronics; premiered at Roulette, NYC on March 16

Trilogic Unity– commissioned by The Juilliard School's "Axiom Ensemble", for mixed chamber octet, soprano, live electronics and video, premiered April 11-13

10 Mysteries– for string quartet, premiered by the Crucible Quartet at The Stone, NYC June 22

2006 –

Extreme Guitar Orchestra II – commissioned by PICA (Portland Institute for Contemporary Art) for the opening concert of the “t:ba:06” Festival, Pioneer Square; for 36 electric guitars; premiered on Sept. 7

SoloS 1-17 – for solo guitar and live electronics, studies in different composed/improvised/randomized interfaces between guitarist and computer using Max/MSP software
(2006 con’t)

TanzTon – commissioned by the Mannheim Ballet; for piano/prepared piano, 2 trombones and live electronics; premiered May 18 at the Mannheim Theater Opera House

Round Sunrise – commissioned by Ethel/Jerome Foundation; for string quartet; premiered at BAM, April 22

17 Rubai’yat – written for Jenny Lin; piano and live electronics; premiered at The Stone, NYC on March 18

2005 –

“*Extreme Guitar Orchestra*” – commissioned by the Children’s Theater Company, Minneapolis, MN, for 24 teen-age guitarists, to open their new teen-theater, October 8-9, 2005 (John King, composer/conductor/guitarist)

“*ETHOS (topology of freedom)*” – commissioned by Red {an orchestra} and Jonathan Sheffer; for Ethel (string quartet), string orchestra, piano and 3 percussionists; premiered April 2, 2005 at the Masonic Auditorium, Cleveland, OH

“*ETHOS (topology of peace)*” – commissioned by the Albany Symphony Orchestra and David Alan Miller; for the “Dogs of Desire” chamber ensemble and 2 sopranos; premiered March 31, 2005 at Revolution Hall, Troy, NY

“*La Belle Captive*”, experimental opera, given North American premiere at The Kitchen, NYC, January 19-21, 2005 (John King, composer/director/live electronics)

2004 –

“*TopographicaLayers*” – commissioned by the Mannheim Ballet; for full orchestra, string quartet, 2 sopranos and live interactive electronics, premiered April 27, 2004 at the Mannheim Opera House

“*CANTOS*” – for violin and piano (written for Mary Rowell of Ethel), premiered at HERE Theater, NYC, June 1, 2004

“*SlipStream*” – for brass octet and live interactive electronics, commissioned by the Stuttgart Ballet, premiered December 3, 2004 in the Staatstheater Opernhaus, Stuttgart, Germany

2003 –

“*AllSteel*” - string quartet premiered by Ethel at the Miller Theater, NYC; Feb. 9, 2003

“*La Belle Captive*” - experimental opera given its world premiere at The Colon Theater (Centro Experimental de Teatro Colon/CETC) in Buenos Aires, March 31-April 6, 2003 (John King, composer/director/live electronics)

“*CheckerboardBlues*” - commissioned by The Kitchen for the Kitchen House Blend, a 10-piece band, premiered on November 19, 2003 at The Kitchen

2002 –

“*Amadou Stomps The Blues*” - commissioned by Bang-On-A-Can All-Stars (People’s Commissioning Project), premiered at the Miller Theater, NYC; March 20, 2002

“*Lightning Slide*” - commissioned by Kronos Quartet, premiered at the Sommer Konzerte Bayrischer Rundfunk Festival in Ingolstadt, Germany; June 23, 2002

“*Fluid Canvas*” - commissioned by the Merce Cunningham Dance Co.; for live electronics; premiered at the Barbican Center, London; September 2002

EDUCATION

1976

graduated from California Institute of the Arts; BFA with honors; studied with Morton Subotnick, Leonard Stein, James Tenney and Stephen Mosko.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2012 spring term

teaching graduate Composition/ Digital Musics at Dartmouth College

2003-present

as an Adjunct Instructor taught at New York University/SCPS; 2 sessions per semester: “The History of Music”, using the Kerman/Tomlinson textbook “Listen”.

1982-1997

taught with the Lincoln Center Institute for the Arts in Education;
as a Teaching Artist visited NYC-area schools, working with students using experiential, multiple intelligence-based learning, focusing on Music Programs coming from Lincoln Center

PUBLICATIONS

On The Agreement of Difference and Unity in Music
Arcana IV; 2009; John Zorn, editor; Hips Road Press

WORK EXPERIENCE

2003-2012

Co-Director of the Music Committee for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company (MCDC); one of four Company musicians: David Behrman, Takehisa Kosugi, Christian Wolff

1985-present

composed music for and performed and toured with the MCDC,
commissioned by and working with John Cage;
David Tudor, David Behrman, Takehisa Kosugi, Christian Wolff, among others

1999-2003

Music Curator at The Kitchen, NYC

AWARDS/GRANTS

2014

received the Foundation for Contemporary Arts Award in Music/Sound

2009

received the Alpert Award in Music Composition

2001

received grant from NY Composers Forum/NEA for commission from Kronos Quartet

2000

NYSCA Fellowship

1995

NEA/Music in Motion grant for a commission for the R  lache Ensemble

1990

Asian Cultural Council grant to study in Japan for 4 months