



Dancing in between worlds

...a programme to inspire all of your senses, combining musical and photographic performance...

The musicians

Susanne Mecklenburg – mezzo-soprano

William Hancox - piano

Andriy Viytovych - viola

The photographer

Gareth Davies



This programme

... appeals to all our senses. We are enveloped in the lure of music, photographic installations and the way in which they enjoy each other's company. Our programme inspires by exploring the parallels and differences between music and visual art and how their definition can change content and meaning. Instead of the more common approach where music and photography observe each other, we make an intimate connection between them. The images and music begin to mirror each other, visualising the musical score's rhythm, tempo and pitch and bringing sound from the melodies and harmonies of the imagery to the musical performance.

What you see

Life may seem complex - but still it only consists of fragments of time and space that can be seen merely as representations of each other that repeat in a seemingly endless loop. Through a photographic technique, slitscan imagery, fragments of space are built up in time to create an image of the whole. You see a whole dance in a single image, and all sides of an object as it rotates in front of the camera. Our video projections go further and reanimate the dance or the rotation: time becomes space in a single image and space becomes time in the animations. We mirror the photographic principle in the musical programme. There are three different instalments ...

What you experience



I Reality versus virtuality: Are our feelings real or imagined? Are we sitting here next to one another or watching ourselves on a screen? Is the story we experience embellished by remote history or contemporary reality? Maybe we can never know but we can explore - and take as an example the character of Cleopatra. All the world speaks of Giulio Cesare, even Händel's opera sports his name, but the real star of the opera is Cleopatra! She who seductively exploits her charms is also a cunning politician, winning over the hearts and ears of the audience in the musical world. Thus we tell her story with some beautiful arias from Händel's opera.

Giulio Cesare, Georg Friedrich Händel (1685 - 1759)
Seduction pure: V'adoro, pupille
Venus, Amor and the others - Venere, bella
Premonition - Se pietà di me non senti
All's well that ends well - Da tempeste il legno infranto

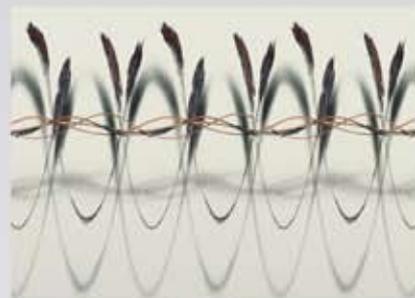
What we need for the performance

For the installations: concert hall with white walls or projection screens, 3 projectors, illumination.

For the music: a concert piano

II Repetition: we see only a part, but fancy that we have grasped the whole: In this part of the programme we pursue the repetitive yet changing character of slitscan photography. We move away from photography being 'the decisive moment', familiar from the work of Henri Cartier-Bresson (1908-2004), the father of modern photojournalism. The horizontal dimension of our images records time. As our subjects continuously rotate in front of the camera they give the illusion of a continuum with neither beginning nor end. The same we see in music. All things are part of a bigger context. Taking them out of context alters their meaning and at the same time harmonises them into one theme. And so we see different settings of a common theme in the music of three very different composers - love, longing, loss, farewell and death, forever repeated.

Three songs, Frank Bridge (1879 – 1941)
Far, far from each other, Music when soft voices die,
Where is it that our soul doth go?
Zwei Gesänge, Johannes Brahms (1833 – 1897)
Gestillte Sehnsucht, Geistliches Wiegenlied
Cantarcillo, Eduardo Toldra (1895 – 1962)



III Dancing in between worlds: Let's dance in between worlds – in many ways and senses, as you discover in this part of the programme. We observe and record movement and rhythm as human subjects - dancers - perform in front of our camera, recording the dance in a continuous image in time, across dimensions. This part involves our senses, focussing on how the music interlinks. Let these three South American composers enchant you with their music, as they float in between the old European and the new American world, and achieve their truly distinct style. Enjoy!

Ástor Piazzolla (1921-1992)
Années de solitude, Balada para un loco,
Los pájaros perdidos
Bachianas Brasileiras No 5, Heitor Villa Lobos (1887 – 1959)
Aria (Cantilena), Dansa (Martelo)
Lúa descolorida, Osvaldo Golijov (1960-)



Further information and booking

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The artists

Susanne Mecklenburg (mezzo-soprano) has studied with her singing teacher and pianist William Hancox in London since 2002 and regularly performs in solo concerts in the UK, Italy and Switzerland. Her concerts are known to combine unusual styles, composers, musical periods, geographical origins, rhythms, stories and lyrics and are always motivated by the desire to tell a story. The searching for and discovering of new repertoire is one of the most enjoyable parts of creating such programmes and often lead to discovering rarely performed songs. For further details see www.susannemecklenburg.info.

William Hancox (piano) has performed as a solo pianist, chamber musician and accompanist throughout the UK and abroad. He has played in all major concert halls in London and broadcast for Classic FM and the BBC. His teaching activities have included positions at London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama and Trinity College of Music, as well as the Britten-Pears School in Aldeburgh.

Andriy Viytovych (viola) is recognised as one of Britain's finest and most versatile performers. He is currently Principal Viola of the Royal Opera House London, Covent Garden, Principal Viola of the English Sinfonia and a Professor of Viola at the Royal College of Music in London. He has played with many distinguished orchestras in Europe and the Americas and worked with eminent conductors including Mstislav Rostropovich, Pierre Boulez, Sir Colin Davis, Sir Simon Rattle, Bernard Haiting and Sir George Solti.

Gareth Davies (photography) lives and works in London and specialises in slitscan panoramic photography, enabling the capture of progress, repetition and time within a single integrated still image. Further information on www.tickpan.co.uk.

