CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN SOPRANO AND THEREMIN

An Audio/Visual Synaesthetic work by David Sidwell and John Mandelberg

In 2007 film-maker John Mandelberg and composer David Sidwell took Moscow and Kazan and met with key international champions of synaesthetic art, as a part of a research project on Synaesthesia. There they met with Bulat Galeyev & Irina Vanechekina at Prometheus Institute, Kazan; Sergei Zoin at The Optical Theatre, Moscow; Stanislav Kowch, Pioneer synthesizer composer and performer; Andrei Smirnov, Director of the Theremin Institute, Ukrainian Institute of Moscow; The Museum of A.N. Scriabin and the Glinka Musical Instrument Museum. We documented our visit and interviews using video footage and photographs. This visual archive has become the basis of the visual part of the work.

This project develops ideas and intends surrounding the study of synaesthesia and Light Music, by Professor Bulat Galeyev, Director at The Prometheus Research Institute of Experimental Aesthetics at Kazan State Technological University. In Moscow, the Theremin Centre continues the work of Lev Theremin’s development of electronic acoustic instruments gestural performance.

"Conversations" little builds on previous study in composition from a 20th century Western European Art Music perspective. The compositional practice is influenced by the music of Scriabin, Martinu, Percy Grainger and Messian. As a younger composer, David Sidwell was drawn to the piano works of Bartok, Rachmaninov, Prokofiev, Martinu and, in particular, A.N. Scriabin, and subsequently became interested in his orchestral pieces in particular Prometheus: Poem of Fire, Opus 65 (1910). Scriabin’s association between visual colour and tonal colour in his “Prometheusus” continues to be groundbreaking in its theoretical foundations.

The project contributes to existing study and investigation into Light Music composition and installation works through the fusion of old and current styles and genres of music and experimental cinema. David’s musical composition for chamber piece has unusual instrumentation and diverse musical styles, incorporating Theremin (electronic instrument); vocalise; Russian Orthodox Liturgy; Muslim call to prayer and contemporary musical forms.

The premiere live performance of the work by Composer, David Sidwell took place at The Atrium, Wintec House, Waikato Institute of Technology, Hamilton, New Zealand on Thursday 16th August 2012 at 7pm.

The performance features Lydia Kavina – THEREMIN; Pamelae Wallace – SOPRANO; Alexandra Wiinner – PIANO; Tim Carpenter – CELLO & Debbie Niblet – SYNTHESIZER

Accompanied by a visual projection with audio by John Mandelberg, Filmmaker

* Include an extra 3mm (minimum) artwork bleed outside the trim area (shown in red) * to scale