

Composer Žibuoklė Martinaitytė

"Composer Žibuoklė Martinaitytė writes stimulating music that bristles with energy and tension. Her orchestral and ensemble compositions are stratified, allusive, digressive and episodic. Dense and restless, they never appear cluttered. Their language is gestural, flowing and bold...The dislocations, rapid acceleration and sudden slowing and the disparate perspectives reconciled in Martinaitytė's music embody complex structures of perception and rich textures of experience."The Wire" magazine, May 2018

"If this music transports you into a haunting, mysterious dream world, don't worry about it – it's only doing its job." – Ingram Marshall wrote about New York-based Lithuanian born composer Žibuoklė Martinaitytė's solo CD *In Search of Lost Beauty*.... Released on the Starkland label in 2019, it received 2 gold medals at the Global Music Awards for Best Composer and Best Album. In 2020 Žibuoklė was awarded The Guggenheim Fellowship and granted the prestigious Lithuanian Government Award for her creative achievements.

Described by WQXR a "textural magician", composer Žibuoklė Martinaitytė has a growing reputation for her chamber and orchestral music. Although she began her career in Europe, the last decade of her activity has been gaining momentum in the USA. In 2008 she was commissioned by MATA festival on their 10th anniversary premiering her piece "Polarities" by The Knights Chamber Orchestra. She received commissions from the Barlow Endowment (2012), Look+Listen festival (2017), Volti (2018), a fellowship for the Other Minds festival (2011) and the New Works residency at Harvestworks, NY (2016). Her first USA orchestral performance of *Horizons* took place at the Composers Inc. concert in Berkeley, California (2015). She received the "Look+Listen" Composers Competition Prize (NYC), the Copland House Sylvia Goldstein award and the Composers Now award for residency at the Pocantico Center. She was also awarded a number of fellowships for creative residencies at the MacDowell Colony for Artists in New Hampshire (2009, 2011, 2019), Aaron Copland house (2010, 2019), Millay Colony for Artists (2012), Wildacres (2014), Djerassi Artists Residency (2017) and Willapa Bay Residency (2018).

Martinaitytė studied composition at the Lithuanian Music Academy (BM, MA) with Bronius Kutavičius and Julius Juzeliūnas. Constantly attempting to broaden her horizons and advancing her compositional technique after completing formal studies, Martinaitytė has been taking part in various composition workshops and courses in Europe. She attended the Darmstadt New Music Summer Courses, Centre Acanthes/Ircam, Royaumont, The 6th International Academy for New Composition and Audio Art in Schwaz, Tirol and Stavanger studying with Brian Ferneyhough, Boguslaw Schaffer, Magnus Lindberg, Tristan Murail and Jonathan Harvey. In 2001 she was granted her first creative residency at Künstlerhaus Lukas der Stiftung Kulturfonds, Germany.

Martinaitytė's music has been performed throughout Europe, The USA and Asia by Nouvel Ensemble Moderne (Canada), The Smith Quartet (UK), ERGO Ensemble (Canada), The Orchestra of Mons Royal Conservatoire (Belgium), TILT Brass (USA), Volti (USA), Yarn/Wire (USA), The Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, The Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra and others. Her work for symphony orchestra *A Thousand Doors To The World* (2009), a commission of the Lithuanian Radio on the occasion of "Vilnius – Culture Capital

of Europe 2009” was broadcast by Euroradio – one of the “largest virtual concerts halls” with 4 million listeners. Three of her orchestral pieces received the Lithuanian Composers Union Award as Best Orchestral Performances for 2009, 2013 and 2018.

Selected Works and Performances:

Saudade (2019) for symphony orchestra (16')

Commission by the Lithuanian Composers Union. Premiered at festival Gaida on October 19th, 2019 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Sielunmaisema (2019) for cello and string orchestra (34')

"Permainu Muzika" festival commission. Premiered on September 20th, 2019 in Klaipeda, Lithuania.

Chant des Voyelles (2018) for a choir cappella (16')

VOLTI commission. Premiered on May 4th, 2018 in San Francisco, CA.

Millefleur (2018) for symphony orchestra (14')

"Iš arti" festival commission. Premiered on November 9th, 2018 in Kaunas, Lithuania.

Chiaroscuro Trilogy (2017) for piano and string orchestra (18')

Gaida festival commission. Premiered on October 21st, 2017 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Unique Forms of Continuity in Space (2017) for two pianos and percussion (16')

Commissioned by "Look+Listen" festival. Premiered on May 19th, 2017 at BRIC, New York.

Vanishing Lands (2016) for pre-recorded sounds, electronics and 3D mapping projections (20')

Created for New Works Residency at Harvestworks in New York. Performed in January 2017 at Harvestworks, NY.

In Search of Lost Beauty (2015-16) for piano, violin, cello, electronics and visuals (68')

Created as part of a residency at Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, France.

Premiered on October 6th, 2016, Vilnius, Lithuania.

Horizons (2013) for symphony orchestra (17')

Gaida festival commission. Premiered in November 2013 by The Lithuanian State Symphony Orchestra, conductor Mārtinš Ozolinš.

USA premiere on November 17th, 2015 at the Composers Inc. concert "Remember November: Orchestra Invasion!" in Berkeley, CA. Performed by The University of the Pacific Symphony Orchestra, conductor Nicolas Waldvogel.

Serenity Diptychs (2015) for violin, electronics and still images (13')
Creative collaboration with artist Philip Van Keuren. Premiered on May 7th, 2015 by Karen Bentley Pollick in Tallinn, Estonia.

The Blue of Distance (2010) a cappella choir (10'30")
Commissioned by GAIDA festival, Lithuania. Premiered in 2010 by the choir "Jauna Muzika". East Coast premiere on May 1st, 2011 by "C 4" in New York.
West Coast Premiere on November 8th, 2015 by "VOLTI" in San Francisco, CA.

OSMOSIS (2015) for brass sextet (12'30")
Commissioned and performed by TILT Brass on June 12th, 2015 in New York.

Gridlock (2013) for clarinet, cello and piano (25')
Commissioned by the Barlow Endowment for Music Composition at Brigham Young University. Premiered in 2016 in New York.

American Hodgepodge (2011) for flute, bass clarinet, violin, cello and electronics (17')
Created as a part of the 16th Other Minds Festival Composer Fellowship. Performed by Jill Heinke, Jeffrey Anderle, Elizabeth Choi and Hannah Addario-Berry on March 2nd, 2011 in San Francisco, CA.

1+1= ∞ (2011) for 2 cellos, piano, pre-recorded sounds, live electronics and audio cubes (35')
Commissioned by Jauna Muzika festival, Lithuania. Performed by „Duo Violoncellissimo“ (Ukraine), Neringa Butkutė and True Rosaschi.

Inhabited Silences (2010) for violin, cello and piano (11'30")
Performed by the New Pacific Trio, California on February 16th, 2010 in San Francisco, CA.

A Thousand Doors to the World (2009) for symphony orchestra (11'30")
Commissioned by Lithuanian Radio on the occasion of "Vilnius - Culture Capital of Europe 2009". Performed by The Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra, conductor Juozas Domarkas.

Polarities (2008) for 13 instruments (13')
Commissioned by MATA festival (NYC) and performed by The Knights Chamber Orchestra, conductor Eric Jacobsen.

Continuity-Discontinuity (11:11-11:22) (2008) for 4 bassoons and tape (11'11")
Commissioned by Jauna Muzika Festival and performed by "Vilniaus Fagotynas".

Mosaic (2008) for tenor, flute, clarinet, violin, viola, cello and piano (11'40")
GAIDA festival commission. Performed by The Disobedient Ensemble.

Perpetual Pulsing Transience (2007) for 6 accordions and large ensemble (11'40")
Commissioned by conductor Daniel Gazon. Performed by The Orchestra of Mons Royal Conservatoire in Brussels, Belgium.

Breakthrough (2006) concerto for accordion and chamber orchestra (20')
Commissioned by the Association of Lithuanian Accordionists (LAA) and XI International accordion music festival in Vilnius. Performed by Raimondas Sviackevičius and The Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, conducted by R. Šervenikas.

Completely Embraced by the Beauty of Emptiness (2006) for 13 instruments (10')
Commissioned by ERGO ensemble (Canada). Performed at CBC Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto, Canada.

Illusions of Time and Space (2006) for string quartet and electronics (13'20")
Commissioned by Jauna Muzika Festival and performed by The Smith Quartet (UK) on April 20th, 2006 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

The Unknown (2005) for flute, soprano and electronics (12')
Commissioned by Jauna Muzika Festival. Performed on April 18th, 2005 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Driving Force (2004) for trombone, tenor saxophone and accordion (7'40")
Commissioned by GAIDA festival, Lithuania. Performed by Mike Svoboda, Liudas Mockūnas and Raimondas Sviackevičius.