

COMPOSERS STATEMENT

All cities are complex environments.... even Utopian ones I imagine.

On a simplistic level they are areas of concentration, of buildings, of people, of “things”, and of course creativity.

T.S. Eliot writes “Time present and time past are both perhaps present in the future”. The creative mind is a product of the past, the present, and for some the future. In my opinion the most beautiful cities and artworks in the world not only pay homage to the past and the present, but also the future.

It must follow that the creative mind is one that is open, it has been borne from the past, influenced consciously or subconsciously by this and present trends and beliefs: occasionally it is possible that an artist can push forward the boundaries which can influence generations to come. The most obvious example for me is Beethoven, his last string quartets look forward almost a century to those of the 2nd Viennese School.

The music of Ville Polychrome reflects this philosophy, music from many centuries sung by the choir and two new pieces here receiving their first performances. The theme is “flowers”, which for me represents the beauty found in Armando’s Brave New World! Living now in the early part of the 21st Century it is difficult to imagine that such a city can suddenly be found. Plato’s view of Utopia in his “Republic” suggested that the pacifist attitude could be broken and Republicans were ready to defend themselves or indeed fight for land or other resources, hiring mercenaries from war making neighbours. The electronic music composed between the choral pieces not only reflects this struggle but also the juxtaposition of good and evil evident in cities today.

The optimism Armando mentions in his statement for Ville Polychrome is expressed by the colours and forms in his installation and also in the melodic shapes and harmonies of the choral pieces which refer to human life in its many guises and forms lived now and in the past. The extended chromaticism of “As the Flowers Fall” alludes to the ephemerality of life for us all, but the minimalism and irregular rhythms of “Le jour entame son cycle” contradicts any notion of life ending, on the contrary it is never ending, embodying the optimism of Ville Polychrome and its Utopian dream.

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