

TTK 0033, Blessing by Maxim Shalygin

Performed by Georgi Sztojanov & Babylon Quartet.

Georgi Sztojanov and the Babylon Quartet perform Blessing by contemporary composer Maxim Shalygin. The composition is based on Psalm 68 Part 3 by Isaac Watts.

We bless the Lord, the just, the good,
Who fills our hearts with joy and food:
Who pours his blessings from the skies,
And loads our days with rich supplies.

He sends the sun his circuit round,
To cheer the fruits, to warm the ground;
He bids the clouds with plenteous rain
Refresh the thirsty earth again.

'Tis to his care we owe our breath,
And all our near escapes from death;
Safety and health to God belong;
He heals the weak, and guards the strong.

He makes the saint and sinner prove
The common blessings of his love;
But the wide difference that remains,
Is endless joy, or endless pains.

The Lord, that bruised the serpent's head,
On all the serpent's seed shall tread;
The stubborn sinner's hope confound,
And smite him with a lasting wound.

But his right hand his saints shall raise
From the deep earth, or deeper seas,
And bring them to his courts above;
There shall they taste his special love.

Artist Info

Shalygin began studying composition seriously at the age of sixteen with Irina Ivashenko. In 2004 he trained for one year with Boris Tishchenko at the N. Rimsky-Korsakov St. Petersburg State Conservatory (RU). He received his first master degree in 2010 at the National Music Academy in Kiev (UA). One year later, in 2011, Shalygin received his second master degree at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague (NL), where he studied with Cornelis de Bondt and Diderik Wagenaar. He currently lives and works in the Netherlands.

Spiritual quests always involve some degree of confidence. Confidence in something that exists beyond the surface of this material world. Something beyond the horizon, beyond the borders of the visible. Transcendence and reunification with oneself are two phases of being. The true artists of all times have been pilgrims on this road. Maxim Shalygin is one of them, not following the footsteps of his predecessors but heading for the same destination.

For over ten years, Maxim has been occupied with a project for a lifetime: music for solo instruments. "The most concealed, intimate and deep things can only be expressed by a single instrument," he says. In each of his solo works Shalygin reaches an exalted state, giving the instrument a special voice. The "9 Preludes" for piano solo, the "Letters to Anna" symphony for violin solo, "Musique de fer" for one percussionist and "Trembling Music" for accordion solo are the results of close cooperation with such unique performers as Vitaly Lyman and Antony Baryshevsky (piano), Emmy Storms (violin), Konstantyn Napolov (percussion) and Vincent van Amsterdam (accordion), respectively. On the other hand,

Shalygin explores writing for symphony and chamber orchestras. His works, "Passacaglia Es-moll," "Triple Concerto Des-dur" and "Lullaby" for strings have been performed in many concert halls.

Another important thread throughout the composer's work is music for ballet. His cooperation with choreographer Lonneke van Leth resulted in scores for several ballets: "Suite – Homage to Alfred Schnittke," "Nachtnet" and "Odysseus," that were performed during the Holland Dance Festival and have enjoyed successes in many Dutch theaters.

Shalygin is the author of a wealth of electroacoustic compositions. He considers some of these as a kind of musical cinema. "Two Hours in Reservoir" (using Joseph Brodsky's recitation voice) and "When everything ends, we start to sing our songs" are musical works of over 50 minutes in length with 'plots' that engage the listener in ever-changing streams of sound shapes.

Shalygin's vocal music constitutes the most characteristic and intimate part of his work, its very heart. It is not concert music in the usual sense — it is poetry recited by a voice and an instrument (the piano) combined. It is music written for its own sake, which becomes a heritage of others.

Shalygin has participated in many international competitions. For his "Letters to Anna" symphony for violin solo he obtained an honorable mention at the 2012 Gaudeamus competition. In the same year his music was selected for Lars von Trier's "Gesamt" project. Shalygin was a composer-in-residence in IZOLYATSIA, Platform for Cultural Initiatives (Donetsk, UA) and at the Storioni Festival (Brabant, NL). His works have been performed at many music festivals worldwide, including Gaudeamus Muziekweek (NL), Musical Contrasts of the 20th Century (RU), Musical Youth Tribune and GOGOLFEST (UA), GAIDA Festival (LT), and CIME/ICEM (US). Leading contemporary music ensembles who have performed his works include Asko | Schönberg, Amsterdam Sinfonietta, DoelenKwartet, Insomnio, Nieuw Ensemble, Slagwerk Den Haag and Keuris Quartet.

Tech specs

Amplifiers: Hegel H30

Cables: Furutech

Digital Converters: Merging Technologies Hapi

Editing Software: Merging Technologies Pyramix

Mastering Engineer: Brendon Heinst

Mastering Room: KEF Blade Two

Microphones: Sonodore

Recording Engineer: Brendon Heinst

Assistant Engineer: Luuk Meijssen

Recording Type & Bit Rate: DXD