



Space, Acoustics and Music

The Federation of Three Wallonian Ensembles gave a concert at the legendary Halles de Schaerbeek in Brussels, based on the ambition to find the perfect piece of music for a particular room.

Background

The Federation of Three Wallonian Ensembles is a working relationship between three ensembles who decided to explore the NewAud project hand in hand. All based in Brussels, the ensembles Sturm und Klang, Ensemble21 and Ensemble ON represent the young Belgian environment devoted to contemporary music.

Sturm und Klang is a large young orchestra with a passionate love of contemporary music. They chose their name to signal a contemporary response to the Sturm & Drang ideal. Ensemble 21 is an ensemble of 21 non-permanent musicians founded at the beginning of the 21st Century. It is an idealistic ensemble with a strong wish to spread the news of new music to as many people as possible. Finally Ensemble ON is a 7 man strong ensemble describing themselves as “a tool at the disposal of composers”.

Concept

This concert project began with the aim of finding the perfect piece of music for a particular room and more specifically with the dream of performing Charles Ives' *The Unanswered Question* in the Schaerbeek Hall, an old covered market in Brussels. The three Belgian ensembles thought that Ives' enigmatic and meditative piece would present itself well in this huge and evocative space.

Additional pieces of music was added to the program, and more ideas about how to use the space developed. At the concert the audience was seated in deck chairs scattered in the large room, three orchestras and three conductors performed simultaneously, and the focus was on the total experience of space, acoustics and music.

Facts

Ensembles: Sturm und Klang, Ensemble21 and Ensemble ON

Venue: Halles de Schaerbeek, Brussels, Belgium

Date and time: January 28th 2014, 8.30 pm

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Programme:

Alberto Posadas: *Cripsis*

Jana Kmit'ova: *Wound*

Matre Orjan: *Atem*

Charles Ives: *The Unanswered Question*

Christophe Guiraud: *Unbounded Love*

Attendees: 220