Percussion Ensemble Music

Walter Mertens

Tower in the Cloud

for 14 players

Program notes:
Inspired by P. Breughel's famous painting 'Tower of Babel'.
(2019 year of Pieter Breughel)

The power of 'The tower of Babel is the rhythmic & melodic drive during the entire piece.
The use and the combination of different percussion instruments (European, African, Indian, Asian), the mixed meters
and the melodic material, represents the accordances and interferences between the different languages and cultures of the workers.
At the end, there's a small moment of rest but ......not for long.
1. Glockenspiel & melodica
2. Tubular Bells & Crotales
3. Vibraphone 1 (bass bow)
4. Vibraphone 2
5. Xylophone
6. Marimba 1 (4 1/3 oct.)
7. Marimba 2 (4 1/3 oct.)
8. Piano
9. Bass / Malletkat
10. Timpani & melodica
11. Percussion 1: Cajon, Tambourin, Ocean Drum
12. Percussion 2: Udu, Frame Drum, Rainstick & Tambourin
13. Percussion 3: Tamtam, Triangle, Tambourin, Pin Chimes
14. Percussion 4: Shaker, Templeblocs or 2 Woodblocs, Cabasa

Walter Mertens, born 30 April 1965, began his musical studies at the Academy for Music in Mol. He won a First Prize Percussion at the Royal Conservatory in Antwerp. Mr. Louis Cauverghs was his teacher.

He obtained his Bachelor Degree at the Lemmens Institute in Leuven with Mr. Leo Duderits as his tutor and mentor. He completed his musical studies, Walter Mertens obtained a Master Degree at the Royal Conservatory in Antwerp, also guided by Mr. Leo Duderits.

Nowadays, Walter Mertens teaches percussion, ensemble and instrumental ensemble. He is also coordinator at the Academy for Music in Schoten.

Besides his teaching, Walter often participates in workshops, he offers artistic support and is frequently asked as a member of the jury for contests for soloists and ensembles in Belgium and abroad, e.g. Vlaamse Percussie Days 2011, 2012, Percussia (Spain), Temps Competition, Bumfest (Slovenia), Polish Percussion Workshops Gdansk; Waubonsee Valley High School (Chicago US).

Together with three other professional percussionists, Walter Mertens formed the group 4PX. This renowned quartet arose from the former Mol Percussion Orchestra and plays its own creations at home and abroad. As a composer, Walter Mertens focuses on teaching methods as well as compositions for percussion solo, duo, ensemble, symphonic orchestra, musical, wind instruments, jazz combo, piano, chamber music and choir.

Several compositions won prizes in different competitions or were assignments in national and international contests or manifestations such as WPMC in Kirkcaldy (UK), Temps-Slovenian Music Competition for youth (SLO), EMI Neepelp (B), Vlaamse (B).

The oeuvre of Walter Mertens is well-known far beyond our boundaries and one can find it in Europe, America and Asia.
Tower in the Cloud

Glk.

T.B.

Vib. 1

Vib. 2

Xyl.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Pno.

Bss/Mlk.

Tmp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4
Largo e cantabile

Glk

T.B.

Vib. 1

Vib. 2

Xyl

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Pno

Bss/Mlk

Tmp

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Melodica

Ocean Drum
Tower in the Cloud
Tower in the Cloud
PERCUSSION NOTATION

Perc. 1
Cajon
Udu
Tamtam
Shaker
Bass
Slap
Fingertips
Open
Tip
With superball
Templebloos

Perc. 2
Frame Drum
Tamb.
Rain St.
Bass
Slap
Fingertips
Open
Tfg.

Perc. 3
Tamtam
P.C.
Cabsa
2 Woodbloos
Open
Cabsa
Templebloos

Perc. 4
Fingertips
Slap
Fingertips
Open
Fingertips
Slap

Tower in the Cloud