

Aleksandar Damnjanović: *Anastasima*

for clarinet, violin and piano

Aleksandar Damnjanović was born in 1958 in Belgrade, where he received general music education. He moved to Paris in 1978 to study composition at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique (CNSM), where he was unanimously awarded the first prize in composition in 1983. He subsequently served as choirmaster and singing coach with the Rennes Opera company for about ten years while at the same time serving as a guest conductor for the Orchestre de Bretagne. From 1993 to 1998, he founded and directed the ensemble ARSIS – Théâtre Vocal. Since 1994, he has served as a director of five different music conservatories (in Brittany, Picardy, Greater Paris). He has also been active as a conductor, founder and artistic director of various music festivals and concert series. He has composed about thirty works of music, including ten public commissions.

Alexander's composition *Anastasima* (from the Greek *Anastasis*: resurrection) for piano, clarinet and violin is based on the *Paschal Troparion*, the Serbian Orthodox hymn "Christ is risen" sung on Easter Sunday. For Damnjanovich, there are two ways of setting the words to music, which represent two ways of seeing the Resurrection. One is rhythmic, lively and chanted, symbolizing the tumultuous moment when the great stone is rolled away from the entrance to the tomb to release the Resurrected Christ. The other is slow, melodic and melismatic, suggesting a temporality that transcends earthly time and enters into eternity. *Anastasima* belongs to this second tradition. After a brief introduction marked by a steady swaying melody and the ringing of far away bells (a sonic illustration of the simultaneity of cosmic and earthly time), the music segues to a mood of processional solemnity, and the three instruments take turns intoning the theme.

Dragana Jovanović: (1963) is a Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A). She obtained her doctoral degree at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Arts with the thesis: 'YURIY'S CIRCLE – 'A teleportation suite for chamber orchestra and electronics'. She is an active composer whose works have been performed regularly throughout Serbia, Europe, USA, Canada, as well as South America. Dragana is the author of numerous compositions for various ensembles. She has composed and produced music for film, theatre, and TV. She is the recipient of a number of domestic and international awards for her compositions. Dragana has served as a member of jury for several international composition competitions.

Dragana is currently an Associate Professor at the Department of Composition, University of Belgrade's Faculty of Arts. Prior to this title, she served as the Chair of the University's Department of Music Theory.

Dragana Jovanović on *The East Side of Heart* (for clarinet, kaval, violin and piano)

"I have composed and dedicated *The East Side of Heart* to the ensemble Trio Pokret. The East is where the Sun is born (rises)...Every day of our lives begins with the Eastern light...The part of the world where I have lived my entire life is the East side of Europe... It is the East wall of a house where the Family Saint Icon is hung in all Serbian households. The distinct

sound of *kaval* adds to my Eastern music devotion as a composer and combines the violin with the piano in a way that creates a really unique symbiosis.

The folk elements are the foundation of my existence, and my heart. The Trio Pokret is comprised of superb musicians with whom I have extensively collaborated, both individually and in an ensemble setting. It is my pleasure and an honor to continue this collaboration. The Trio Pokret has performed this composition many times domestically and abroad.”