Petros SHOUJOUNIAN

Twelve Duos

Trumpets

The composer suggests the performers use the following instruments for the various duos:

Trumpet in C - No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 11 Piccolo Trumpet in B-flat - No. 5 Cornet in B-flat - No. 6, 7, 8 Trumpet in B-flat - No. 9, 10 Flugelhorn in B-flat - No. 12

In the Footsteps of Komitas

My interest in the collected works of Komitas's ethnographical songs was aroused when I was introduced to Bela Bartok's similar works followed by Alan Hovhaness's huge creative world. Bartok completed his project having at his disposal a large collectin of ethnographic music, while Hovhannes studied the wealth of Komitas's music with great interest. It is difficult to say to what extent the Armenian underpinning of Hovhannes's works are nurtured by Komitas's musical world, but his classical interpretation of the Armenian ethnographical music created a huge interest in the listener. Needless to say, there is also Aram Katchaturian's legacy, which at its core has the ardent presence of the Armenian spirit, nurtured by Komitas's very existence.

Komitas has left a collecion of about 3,000 cleaned versions of ethnographic song and dance pieces, of which 1,700 has reaches us, about 400 of which have been activated.

I believe that in those beautiful musical fragments reside the power to be revived, once we enrich them with colorful musical instruments and unbounded polyphonic imagination.

This is the motivation behind my own work and these Twelve Duos for Trumpets: to make the essence of our ethnographic music accessible through Komitas

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No. 6 Circle Dance

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No. 12
Evening Song

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