

Soundings ...

... 2009/10



Friday 6th November, 2009—8.00pm
Reid Concert Hall, Bristo Square
Edinburgh

Solo Concert: Trevor Wishart

Trevor Wishart - *American Triptych*

Trevor Wishart - *Globalalia*

Trevor Wishart

***American Triptych* (1999)**

[20']

The twentieth century was dominated by the American Dream ... liberty, technological progress and the pursuit of happiness, and represented here by the voices of Martin Luther King, the astronaut and moon-walker Neil Armstrong, and Elvis Presley.

The fall of the Berlin wall seemed to herald the final triumph of this dream, and signalled to some, in the words of Francis Fukuyama, the 'End of History'. As we move into the new millennium, how permanent or ephemeral will this dream prove to be?

American Triptych recreates and transforms these iconic voices. Alongside more conventional techniques, the piece plays with the poor quality of radio reception from space, using the 'crackly' noise background as source material, and sometimes processing the voices to reduce their comprehensibility.

The piece was commissioned by the French Government for the Groupe de Recherches Musicales (GRM) and first performed in January, 2008, as part of the *Cycle Acousmatique* concert series, in the Salle Olivier Messiaen at Radio France in Paris.

Trevor Wishart

***Globalalia* (2003/4)**

[29']

The universal dance of human speech as revealed in
twenty tales from everywhere, spoken in tongues.

In memoriam, Scheherezade, died in suspicious
circumstances, Abu Ghraib, 2004.

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Globalalia was commissioned by Folkmar Hein, for his 60th birthday, and premiered at *Inventionen* 2004, Berlin. The piece was composed using the Composers Desktop Project software between June 2003 and June 2004, in York and in Berlin, where the composer was Edgard Varèse Visiting Professor of Music at the Technical University, a residency supported by the DAAD.

Special thanks are due to Natasha Barrett, Andrew Bentley, Warren Burt, Jane Kasam, Patrick Kosk and Kouhei who all responded to my request to collect speaking voices from the airwaves. As a result, 26 different human languages are represented in this piece. All the sounds used are syllables edited from human speech and selected from an initial database of over 8300 examples. Initial research for this piece was made possible through an AHRB Creative Arts Fellowship.

TREVOR WISHART: Composer and performer specialising in sound metamorphosis and constructing the software tools to make it possible (Sound Loom/CDP). Has held residencies in Australia, Canada, Germany, Holland, Sweden, and the USA and at various UK Universities. He was recently awarded the Giga-Hertz Grand prize for his life's work. Creates music with his own voice, for professional groups, or in imaginary worlds conjured up in his own studio. His aesthetic and technical ideas are described in the books *On Sonic Art* and *Audible Design*. Also involved in community, environmental and educational projects, his *Sounds Fun* books of musical games having been republished in Japanese. His current project, begun whilst Composer in Residence in the North East of England based at the University of Durham, is a large-scale electro-acoustic work based on speaking voices recorded around the region.

For further information consult <http://www.trevorwishart.co.uk/>

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