

PRESS RELEASE

JESSICA NG & JUDY HO

AUGUST 2017

MUSIC ART COLLABORATION

IN/BETWEEN

THE MUSIC OF FRANCO PRINSLOO
& PIETER BEZUIDENHOUT

SOUTH AFRICAN CONCERT SERIES



"BETWEEN LOVE AND SOLITUDE, A WOMAN SINGS."

East and South unite in this unique classical vocal performance. Soprano and harpist, Jessica Ng and Judy Ho from Hong Kong, collaborates with South African composers, Franco Prinsloo and Pieter Bezuidenhout, to bring a unique contemporary classic experience to South Africa in 2017.

This multidisciplinary international collaboration between two diverse cultures presents new Afrikaans, Cantonese, French and English art music. The Singaporean artist Sokkuan Tye was responsible for the impressive costumes and video projections.

After sold out performances in Hong Kong and Singapore, South Africans can also experience this cutting edge work for two shows only at the kykNET Konservatorium in Potchefstroom on the 3rd of October 2017 at 09:30 am and on the 4th of October 2017 at 17:30 pm | R100 | 60 min. The concert can also be seen at the UJ Arts Centre, Kingsway Campus in Johannesburg on the 6th of October 2017 at 19:30 pm | R120 | 60 min and at Nazareth House, Pretoria on the 8th of October 2017 at 14:30 pm with special guest, Magdalene Minnaar | R120 | 60 min.

A full album of the music was recorded in Hong Kong in July 2017 and will be available to purchase online at CDBaby.com, iTunes, Deezer and all major digital music platforms





Between the living and the dead, between exposure and privacy, between love and solitude, a woman sings. She wears her heart on her sleeve, but will not show you her face. She walks through a crowd but is totally alone. She is a ghost, but she is alive.

IN/BETWEEN is a series of loosely connected song cycles exploring love, loneliness and freedom. An international collaboration between artists from different parts of the world. This semi-staged production features Cantonese, Afrikaans, French and English poetry set to original music by South African composers, Franco Prinsloo and Pieter Bezuidenhout, and will be performed by harpist, Judy Ho, and soprano, Jessica Ng.



This multi-disciplinary project was partly inspired by a particular line in W.H. Auden's poem "As I Walked Out One Evening": 'I'll love you, dear, I'll love you/Till China and Africa meet/And the river jumps over the mountain/And the salmon sing in the street'.

The two ends of the world converge in the programme that draws on African and Chinese traditions and melds them in unconventional yet beautiful ways. Not only will the concert feature ravishing melodies traditionally scored for voice and harp, such as Bezuidenhout's "Pictures from the West", but audiences will be able to enjoy Prinsloo's "Dada Dauphine!" a dadaïst exploration of Mari Antoinette through contemporary fashion trends and social media inspired self-obsession. The shimmering bass lines of Bezuidenhout will enthrall listeners with their constant shifts from key to key, while Prinsloo's mesmeric harmonies - at once recitativo and aria - call to mind a time that is either in a courtly past, or in the distant future. It is story-telling music, written to enchant.



The hour-long concert also introduces premieres of several pieces. Bezuidenhout's D'Apres Wang Wei is set to the words of an Afrikaans poem in homage to the 8th-century poet Wang Wei. Prinsloo's "Pictures" are five Chinese poems by Tang dynasty poet, Bai Juyi, to be sung in Cantonese. This is particularly note-worthy, considering there are little to no art songs composed specifically for the Cantonese language.

"Pictures" for Soprano and Harp, is a collection of poems by renowned Tang dynasty poet, Bai Juyi, set to music by Franco Prinsloo. This song cycle was commissioned by harpist Judy Ho and soprano Jessica Ng. The first three movements were composed for the international collaborative production "In/between" at the Hong Kong Fringe in 2016. Two more movements were added for the 2017 International Harp Congress in Hong Kong. This work is set in contemporary classical style, in Cantonese - a language unfamiliar to Prinsloo - which resulted in a vast exploration of the essential prosodic patterns of this interpretation of the poems. Composer and performers worked closely together to honour the complex sound inflections in the text. Visual illustrations of word inflections, auditory pronunciation guides, detailed translations and, above all, a desire to create through interdisciplinary exploration resulted in this unique coming together of East and South.

**"IT IS STORY-TELLING
MUSIC, WRITTEN TO
ENCHANT."**



Audiences can look forward to new music that transports the listener to a world simultaneously familiar yet fresh. Prinsloo's "Love's answer" on poetry by William Shakespeare evokes neo-Renaissance soundscapes and Bezuidenhout's Lamentations creates a world of longing and grief that confronts with an urgent sense of immediacy.

The composers weave through a musical world that is both accessible yet invites the listener to spaces unknown.



"A DESIRE TO CREATE THROUGH EXPLORATION RESULTED IN THIS UNIQUE COMING TOGETHER OF EAST AND SOUTH."



IN/BETWEEN aims to explore the liminal spaces in art and life. The artists involved are neither insider nor outsider and embodies both the joy and unease of unbelonging.

The collaborators share the same openness, freedom from categorisation and spirit of experimentation. Sokkuan Tye, for example, is an illustrator venturing for the first time into designing for the stage; Jessica Ng is singing in Afrikaans, the South African composers are gamely taking on Chinese flavours in their works, and harpist Judy Ho is breaking from the classical concert hall tradition.

Photo credit: Hilda Fung

CONTACT INFO &

DATES

3 October 2017 09:30: KykNet Konservatorium, Potchefstroom during Aardklop. Computicket. R100.

All members of the press are hereby invited to contact us without hesitation for interviews and articles.

4 October 2017 17:30: KykNet Konservatorium, Potchefstroom during Aardklop. Computicket R100.

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6 October 2017 19:30: UJ Arts Centre, Kingsway Campus, Johannesburg. R120.

Jessica Ng: +852 6016 2090
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8 October 2017 14:30 Nazareth House Chapel, Pretoria (Special guest: Magdalene Minnaar) Tixa R120.

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" A UNIQUE CONTEMPORARY CLASSICAL MUSIC EXPERIENCE"

