

Nuno Galopim

English Translation

The quantity of interpreters who have been recording instrumental discs of the music of Philip Glass have been multiplying in the last years, some even produced through Orange Mountain Music, the label of the composer himself. Discs of piano have been appearing especially, but also flute and saxophone. And there is even an album of Glass pieces played by a Caribbean steel band...Tara Hugo is the first voice to board his universe with an entire album. Over the years Philip Glass has composed songs (yes, nearer the notion of song according to the popular tradition) for voices like Mick Jagger (Streets of Berlin, which then Ute Lemper also recorded) or Nathalie Merchant (the former voice of 10,000 Maniacs). And he created two cycles of songs, one of them being the classic Songs From Liquid Days (with the words of David Byrne, Suzanne Vega and Paul Simon), the other the result of a partnership with Leonard Cohen in Book of Longing... And, of the rest, his vocal work has been essentially focused in the realm of opera. Trained in London with experience in the theater (but a career that already took to the powers of the jazz and blues), Hugo's first professional contact with the music of Philip Glass was in the Book Of Longing, singing in the piece that toured with Glass and on the recording that later followed. It's as if the singer were put under an enchanted spell by the music that now embodies a disk which, in addition to covering three songs from Book of Longing, also includes two from Monsters of Grace, one from Hydrogen Jukebox (a joint project of Glass and Allen Ginsberg), a song with text by Natalie Merchant (sung in Latin) and Streets of Berlin, which originally appeared on the soundtrack of Bent. The other four songs added were devised from a collection of instrumental compositions of existing Glass melodies, for which she herself wrote the lyrics. Together, and relying on new arrangements for a small chamber group by Trevor Gureckis, Tara Hugo presents a cycle of songs, just as Glass intended, challenging the notion of genre. In fact the songs (even the vocal adopted register) are closer to the popular tradition than the field of classic music. The result? A magnificent interpreter's look at a composer of unmistakable signature, in a collection of songs that they could now begin to walk around the stages of the world.

Original here:

<http://sound--vision.blogspot.com/2013/01/novas-edicoes-tara-hugo-tara-hugo-sings.html>