



Present Music

2005-2006 Season

Kevin Stalheim, Artistic Director

presentmusic

HALLELUJAH! SEASON OPENER

Saturday, September 24, 2005 • 7:30 pm
Bader Concert Hall, UWM Zelazo Center

Mist (1991)

Qu Xiaosong
(b.1952)

Hallelujah Junction (1998)

John Adams
(b.1947)

INTERMISSION

Azure or Green or Purple (2005)

Sigmund Snopek III
(b.1950)

Floof (1982)

Esa Pekka Salonen
(b.1958)

Weather One (1997)

Michael Gordon
(b.1956)

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THE UNITED PERFORMING ARTS FUND

Azure or Green Or Purple

Sigmund Snopek III

Since the age of 16, I have been passionate about setting favorite poems to music.

Poetry, especially great poetry, has inherent music in rhythms and rhymes. As a composer I am always on the lookout for poets whose music is particularly accessible to me in my creative process. In 2000 I was introduced to the poetry of Fernando Pessoa, one of the most original Portuguese poets of the 20th century. There was an immediate empathy with his works; his ideas and images seem to come to life with the addition of music.

'AGP' is the 13th Pessoa poem I have scored, and by far the most complex. Written in 1935, "AGP" uses the vernacular and imagery of the sea to underpin a contemplation of growing old. It is written in 8 verses, each with its own structure and central theme. I have used these themes as building blocks, stringing them together into a mini cantata, or what I think of as a 'vocal rhapsody'.