Beat: Music

HANS ABRAHAMSEN WINS GRAWEMEYER AWARD FOR MUSIC COMPOSITION

A SONG CYCLE FOR SOPRANO AND ORCHESTRA

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USPA NEWS - 'Let me tell you', a song cycle for soprano and orchestra, has earned Danish composer Hans Abrahamsen the 2016 Grawemeyer Award for Music Composition. Hans Abrahamsen's half-hour work presents a first-person narrative by Ophelia...

'Let me tell you', a song cycle for soprano and orchestra, has earned Danish composer Hans Abrahamsen the 2016 Grawemeyer Award for Music Composition. Hans Abrahamsen's half-hour work presents a first-person narrative by Ophelia, the tragic noblewoman from Shakespeare's 'Hamlet.' The libretto by Paul Griffiths is adapted from his 2008 novel“”also titled 'let me tell you'“”and consists of seven poems created using only the minimal vocabulary that Shakespeare originally scripted for Ophelia.

'Let me tell you' was commissioned by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra with support from the Danish Arts Foundation. The work premiered in 2013 with the Berlin Philharmonic conducted by Andris Nelsons and featured soprano Barbara Hannigan, to whom the work is dedicated. It since has been performed by orchestras around the world. Performances in the U.S. are scheduled in Cleveland and Boston in early 2016.

Hans Abrahamsen, 62, was born in Copenhagen and teaches at The Royal Danish Academy of Music, where he also studied music theory and history. He studied composition with Per NørgÃ¥rd and later with the 1986 Grawemeyer Award winner György Ligeti.

Hans Abrahamsen's accolades include prestigious awards such as the Carl Nielsen Prize (1989), the Wilhelm Hansen Composer Prize (1998) and a Royal Philharmonic Society Music Award (2015).

'Let me tell you' is the second Grawemeyer Award-winning work on which music critic, poet and novelist Paul Griffiths collaborated. He also wrote the libretto for 'Marco Polo,' which won Tan Dun the 1998 Grawemeyer Award in Music Composition.

The Grawemeyer Award winners are being named next week, pending formal approval by the university's board of trustees. The University of Louisville presents the prizes annually for outstanding works in music composition, ideas improving world order, psychology and education and gives a religion prize jointly with Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

The 2016 winners will present free lectures about their award-winning ideas when they visit Louisville in April to accept their $100,000 prizes.

Source : University of Louisville - Hans Abrahamsen wins 2016 Grawemeyer Award for Music Composition for 'let me tell you', a song cycle for soprano and orchestra

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