

PRESS RELEASE



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KLANG: A TRIBUTE TO KARLHEINZ STOCKHAUSEN **STOCKHAUSEN CELEBRATED AT SOUTHBANK CENTRE WITH WORLD AND UK PREMIERES**

Saturday 1 – Sunday 9 November 2008
Southbank Centre

KLANG: A Tribute to Karlheinz Stockhausen is a major Stockhausen festival that Southbank Centre shaped with the composer before his death in December 2007. The festival, one of the highlights of Southbank Centre's 2008/09 classical music season, is curated by Southbank Centre Associate Artist **Oliver Knussen** and runs from Saturday 1 to Sunday 9 November. It includes four **UK premieres** of major Stockhausen works, the **world premiere** of *Urantia* (commissioned by Southbank Centre), and his final work *Zodiac*. In addition to the concerts, there will be a number of events which explore the future of Stockhausen's creative ideas, his music and legacy, including **late-night performances, interviews, keynote lectures** and **performer masterclasses**. An additional highlight will be the screening of **rare film footage** throughout the week. *KLANG* (meaning 'sound') is a cycle of pieces based on the 24 hours of the day and was being written right up to the composer's death. 21 of the 24 hours were completed and six of the works to be performed during the festival are from the *KLANG* cycle. In addition to the newest works there will be performances of Stockhausen classics such as *Mantra*, *Gesang der Jünglinge*, *Stimmung* and *Trans*. Performers include the **London Sinfonietta** conducted by Oliver Knussen, the **Asko Ensemble** from Holland, a range of soloists chosen by Stockhausen who worked closely with him, and young musicians from the **Royal College of Music** and the **Royal Northern College of Music**.

Composer and conductor Oliver Knussen is internationally feted as an inspirational interpreter of music of the 20th and 21st centuries. Knussen was in close touch with Stockhausen before his sudden death and it was to him that Stockhausen had entrusted the performance of what turned out to be his last work, *Zodiac*.

Oliver Knussen, Southbank Centre Associate Artist and Festival Curator said:

'It has been a great pleasure for me to curate Southbank Centre's festival in tribute to Karlheinz Stockhausen. Stockhausen's reputation rests on a number of path-breaking works from the first half of his career which are indisputable modern classics. Several of these are heard during the week – *Gesang der Jünglinge*, *Stimmung*, *Mantra* and *Trans*. But within the huge projects that occupied him for the rest of his creative life can be found similarly extraordinary and innovative compositions which have yet to be experienced by audiences here, notably the amazing and monumental *Lucifers Tanz* from *Samstag aus LICHT*, which is given its first UK performances, in London and Manchester, during our festival.

I am particularly happy to be conducting a concert which brings Stockhausen's remarkable first orchestral work, the *Drei Lieder*, together with his very last composition *Zodiac*, completed the day before his death last December, and the world première of *Urantia* from *KLANG*.

The works which make up the late *KLANG* cycle represent, in my view, a remarkable distillation of the ideas and ideals which Stockhausen pursued throughout his life. When we consulted Stockhausen in the early stages of planning this week, he was happy that these works would be central to our scheme. The spirit of *KLANG*, which means 'sound', 'tone' or 'ring', binds together this series of performances, installations and events, all inspired by and in celebration of this great creative figure of our time.'

The festival opens on 1 November with the London Sinfonietta conducted by Oliver Knussen performing *Michaels Gruss* (Michael's Greeting) in The Front Room at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. This is followed by a concert in the Queen Elizabeth Hall of *Trans*, alongside the solo work *Harmonien* from *KLANG*. *Trans*, written in 1971, came to Stockhausen in a dream: an orchestra appears behind a gauze bathed in red-violet light, soloists emerge out of the orchestra and, every now and then, the taped sound of the shuttle of a weaving loom crashes through the texture. One of Stockhausen's most powerfully communicative works, it will be performed twice, according to Stockhausen's wishes. The performers for this concert are the Royal College of Music Orchestra directed by **Diego Masson**, and soloists **Suzanne Stephens** and **Kathinka Pasveer**.

Sunday 2 November sees a performance of *Mantra*, a work composed during Stockhausen's visit to Japan in 1970. *Mantra*, for two ring-modulated pianos, is an

exhilaratingly hypnotic masterpiece where the two pianists (**Ellen Corver** and **Sepp Grotenhuis** – Stockhausen's preferred soloists) and sound projectionist **Jan Panis** are required to manipulate the sounds of the pianos as well as play percussion instruments and use their voices, creating the effect of a super-instrument. This concert in the Purcell Room is followed by a Queen Elizabeth Hall concert when the UK Premiere of *Glanz* (Brilliance), the tenth hour in the *KLANG* Cycle, will be performed by the musicians for whom it was written, Holland's Asko Ensemble. In *Orchester-Finalisten* (Orchestra Finalists) the audience is surrounded by sampled sounds from every day life, while instrumental soloists perform as if in a cosmic orchestral audition.

Another work will receive its UK premiere on 5 November – *Himmels-Tür* (Heaven's Door) is the fourth hour of the *KLANG* cycle and is another piece which Stockhausen imagined in a dream. In a highly theatrical performance, a solo percussionist plays on a specially constructed double door, 'the door of Heaven'. As the door is specially assembled for this work, it will be driven over from Germany specifically for this performance. The work is performed by **Stuart Gerber**, for whom it was composed, with sound projectionist Kathinka Pasveer.

Two harpists, **Marianne Smit** and **Esther Kooi**, come together in a concert on Friday 7 November to perform the UK premiere of *Freude* (Joy) from *KLANG*. For this work (the second hour of *KLANG*) two harpists play and sing words from a medieval hymn in what is one of the most striking and beautiful of Stockhausen's late creations. It is performed alongside, *Cosmic Pulses*, the major electronic tape piece from the *KLANG* cycle (hour thirteen).

The closing weekend of *KLANG: A Tribute to Karlheinz Stockhausen* includes a concert on Saturday 8 November which presents the early and final works of Stockhausen. The works are performed by the London Sinfonietta, conducted by Oliver Knussen, with soloist **Helena Rasker**. As well as the chance to hear the composer's final work, *Zodiac*, this concert also presents the world premiere of *Urantia* for Electronic Music, commissioned by Southbank Centre for the *KLANG* festival. These two works sit alongside Stockhausen's first ensemble work *Drei Lieder* (Three songs). Later the same evening audiences can hear what is perhaps one of Stockhausen's best-known works – *Stimmung*, meaning both 'tuning' and 'atmosphere' or 'mood'. In this piece six close-

mic'ed voices intone a single, euphonious chord for over an hour, finding ravishing colours and resonances through the manipulation of overtones. Over this chord, the vocalists recite erotic poems and 'magic names' from many cultures.

The festival finale on Sunday 9 November, presents the London premiere of *Luzifers Tanz* (Lucifer's Dance), from *Samstag aus LICHT* and was written for an enormous wind-band, which Stockhausen imagined in the form of a demonic face, groups of instruments representing the mouth, the eyes and the nose. The concert also includes Stockhausen's early masterpiece for electronic tape *Gesang der Jünglinge* (Song of the Youths). Performers for this concert are the virtuosic wind players of the Royal Northern College of Music Wind Orchestra, who will have just performed the UK premiere of this work on 2 November in Manchester.

Having opened with 'Michael's Greeting', the *KLANG* festival closes with *Michaels Abschied* (Michael's Farewell) performed from the balcony of the Royal Festival Hall by Royal Northern College of Music Wind Orchestra.

Stockhausen's Front Room

To complement the concert programmes, there is a series of events, including family workshops, in The Front Room and Soft Space at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Visitors and audiences will have the chance to explore the future of Stockhausen's ideas and music. Key commentators such as **Richard Toop** and **Robin Maconie** (coming over from Australia and New Zealand respectively), **Jerome Kohl** and **Morag Grant** alongside **Robert Worby** and **Gillian Moore**, Southbank Centre's Head of Contemporary Culture, bring their in-depth knowledge of Stockhausen to Southbank Centre to present discussions and workshops. Southbank Centre has also been working with a range of partners such as the Royal College of Music and Royal Academy of Music to further explore the composer. Throughout the week The Front Room serves as an interactive learning centre providing information on Stockhausen's life and music with digital scans of scores, texts and images loaned by the Stockhausen Archive and exhaustively researched recordings of broadcast interviews and lectures from archives around the world. There will be a specially curated screening space featuring a rolling programme of rare and archival films and documentaries, covering the complete history of Stockhausen's musical life, from the 1965 performance of *Mikrofonie 1*, and the historic

performances in the *Caves of Jeita* in 1969 to the performance of *The Helicopter String Quartet* in 2003, revealing the brilliance and beauty of Stockhausen and his music. Many of the films have never been seen before in anything but brief on-line clips, and in particular the nine hours of lectures from London in 1971 where Stockhausen can be seen in a more relaxed manner. The full list of events can be seen at <http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/stockhausen>.

The festival is in association with London Sinfonietta, RCM, and RNCM. Supported by Goethe-Institut, London and *Réseau Varèse* Media Partner Last.fm

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Notes to Editors

Biography:

Karlheinz Stockhausen

(b 22 Aug 1928. d 5 December 2007). The leading German composer of his generation, he has been a seminal figure of the post-1945 avant garde, and major figure in the whole history of 20th-century music. A tireless innovator and influential teacher, he largely redefined notions of serial composition, and was a pioneer in electronic music. His seven-part operatic cycle *LICHT*, based on the seven days of the week is possibly the most ambitious project ever undertaken by a major composer. He composed prolifically right up to his death and completed 21 of the 24 movements of *KLANG*, based on the 24 hours in the day.

Royal Northern College of Music celebrates the maverick and innovative composer **Karlheinz Stockhausen** with a day-long festival, *Abschied (Farewell)* on Sunday 2 November. One of the day's highlights will be the UK premiere of *Luzifers Tanz* performed by the RNCM Wind Orchestra and conducted by Clark Rundell.

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 21-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 *Festival of Britain*. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and The Hayward as well as The Saison Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. The Royal Festival Hall reopened in June 2007 following the major refurbishment of the Hall and redevelopment of the surrounding area and facilities.

Ticket Office: 0871 663 2500

Online booking: www.southbankcentre.co.uk

KLANG: The Music of Karlheinz Stockhausen **Concerts**

Saturday 1 November, The Front Room at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7pm

London Sinfonietta

Oliver Knussen *conductor*

Michaels Gruss (Michael's Greeting)

Saturday 1 November, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.30pm

Royal College of Music Orchestra

Diego Masson *conductor*

Suzanne Stephens *bass clarinet*

Kathinka Pasveer *flute*

Programme includes *Trans* for orchestra and tape and *Harmonien* (Harmonies) from *KLANG*

Tickets: £9 - £22

Sunday 2 November, Purcell Room, 5pm

Ellen Corver *piano*

Sepp Grotenhuis *piano*

Jan Panis *sound projection*

Mantra for two pianos and electronics

Tickets: £10

Sunday 2 November, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.30pm

ASKO Ensemble

Orchester-finalisten (Orchestra Finalists) from *LICHT*

Glanz (Brilliance) from *KLANG* (UK Premiere)

Tickets: £9 - £22

Wednesday 5 November, Purcell Room, 8pm

Stuart Gerber *percussion*

Kathinka Pasveer *sound projection*

Himmels-tür (Heaven's Door) from *KLANG* (UK Premiere)

Tickets: £8

Friday 7 November, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.30pm

Marianne Smit & Esther Kooi *harps*

Getru Smit-Pasveer *sound projection*

Freude (Joy) from *KLANG* (UK Premiere)

Cosmic Pulses from *KLANG*

Tickets: £9 - £22

Saturday 8 November, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.30pm

London Sinfonietta

Oliver Knussen *conductor*

Helena Rasker *alto*

Drei Lieder (Three Songs) for alto voice and chamber orchestra

Urantia from *KLANG* (World Premiere)

Tierkreis (Zodiac) (UK Premiere)

Tickets: £9 - £22

Saturday 8 November, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 10.15pm

SingCircle

Gregory Rose *director*

Stimmung (Tuning)

Tickets: £9 - £15

Sunday 9 November, Royal Festival Hall, 8pm

Royal Northern College of Music Wind Orchestra

Clark Rundell *conductor*

Bryan Wolf *sound projection*

Gesang der Jünglinge (Song of Youths)

Luzifers Tanz (Lucifer's Dance) from *Samstag aus LICHT*

Please note that the UK Premiere of *Luzifers Tanz* will be performed by the same line up at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester on Sunday 2 November as part of a Stockhausen Day.

Tickets: £9 - £22

Post-concert, Festival Terrace, Royal Festival Hall

Royal Northern College of Music Wind Orchestra

Michaels Abschied (Michael's Farewell)

Additional Events

An exploration of the future of Stockhausen's creative ideas and music that incorporates late-night performance and intimate interviews, keynote lectures and performer master-classes, films, exhibition, and presentations of participatory projects with national partners and local communities.

STOCKHAUSEN'S FRONT ROOM

Witness more than just the music during this celebration of Stockhausen. The composer's scores and hand-drawn LP and CD covers inspire art around the space created by illustration and design students. An interactive learning centre includes digital scans of Stockhausen's scores, texts and images loaned by the Stockhausen Archive, as well as recordings of interviews and lectures. A programme of film screenings features Stockhausen's famous lectures, performances of his works including the Helicopter String Quartet.

Stockhausen Cinema

A specially curated screening space in the Queen Elizabeth Hall foyer features a rolling programme of rare and archival films and documentaries. Covering the complete history of Stockhausen's musical life, from the 1965 performance of *Mikrophonie 1*, and the historic performances in the *Caves of Jeita* in 1969 to the performance of *The Helicopter String Quartet* in 2003, these films reveal the brilliance and beauty of Stockhausen and his music.

Sunday 2 November

A rare opportunity to watch Stockhausen's London lectures from 1971 filmed by Robert Slotover of Allied Artists and featuring the composer speaking with disarming charm about his music and ideas.

Programme runs from 10am to 11pm. Free admission

Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 November

From the mid-1960s these classic performances of *Momente* and *Mikrophonie 1*, the latter featuring the British musician Hugh Davies aged 23.

Programme runs from 5pm to 11pm

Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 November

In 1969 Stockhausen gave an infamous series of performances in the caves of Jeita near Beirut and this film features excerpts from *Hymnen* and *Stimmung*. Also showing the BBC edition of *Full House* in which the London Sinfonietta rehearses and performs *YLEM* and Stockhausen answers phone-in questions with John Bird.

Programme runs from 5pm to 11pm

Friday 7 November

Filmed performances of *Originale* in New York and Cologne.

Programme runs from 5pm to 1am

Saturday 8 November

Tuning In with Stockhausen and the SingCircle. A BBC Omnibus film from 1980 to celebrate tonight's late night performance of *Stimmung* in the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Programme runs from 5pm to 11pm

Sunday 9 November

Join us in the Purcell Room for a special brunch-time screening of rare Stockhausen films on the big screen. To include *In Absentia* by the Brothers Quay and *The Helicopter String Quartet* made by acclaimed director Frank Scheffer.

Purcell Room 10-12.30pm. Free admission

Understanding Stockhausen

Saturday 1 November

The Darmstadt Bar

DJs and 1950s jazz celebrate the first night of the festival.

The Front Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 9.30pm. Admission free

Sunday 2 November

Family workshop: Stockhausen & The Beatles

Come along for a hands-on music making session that explores the link between two icons of modern music. Suitable for children aged five and over.

The Front Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 11am Admission free (places limited)

Tuesday 4 November

Percussion masterclass with Stuart Gerber

Join a masterclass with Stockhausen interpreter and KLANG festival performer Stuart Gerber covering Stockhausen's solo percussion works. For experienced percussion players.

Spirit Level at Royal Festival Hall, 2pm £10 (limited availability)

Wednesday 5 November

In conversation: *Stockhausen & Spirituality*

An intimate, informal discussion with friends and colleagues of Stockhausen around key themes in his work. Participants include Jerome Kohl and Jonathan Harvey. Visit the website for full details of the participants.

The Front Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 5.30pm Admission free

Thursday 6 November

In conversation: *Stockhausen & Messiaen*

An intimate, informal discussion with friends and colleagues of Stockhausen around key themes in his work. Participants include Richard Toop. Visit the website for full details of the participants.

The Front Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 5.30pm

Admission free

Thursday 6 November

Nonclassical club night

This is a special KLANG-themed visit from Gabriel Prokofiev's club night. *Nonclassical* brings together composers and performers for a new approach to contemporary classical music.

The Front Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 9.30pm Admission free

Friday 7 November

Symposium: *Music & Technology*

An afternoon exploring Stockhausen's pioneering command of technology in his music including a presentation by Gregorio Karman of the SWR Experimental Studio in Freiburg on his work with Stockhausen and a keynote presentation by Stockhausen biographer Robin Maconie.

Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 2pm, £8

Friday 7 November

Kurzwellen

Students from De Montfort University, Leicester have been working to realise a new version of *Kurzwellen*, with Rolf Gelhaar, one-time Stockhausen collaborator and performer in the 1968 world premiere of *Kurzwellen*.

The Front Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 6pm Admission free

Friday 7 November

The Wire magazine presents... the scope

Featuring performances by modern laptop technicians and top improvisers, and a rare screening of The Brothers Quay's *In Absentia*, a visualisation of Stockhausen's music.

The Front Room & Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 9.30pm, Admission free

Saturday 8 November

Family workshop: *Cerealism*

Record your breakfast and make serial music with Stockhausen aficionado and composer Robert Worby. Suitable for children aged five and over.

The Front Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 10.30am, Admission free (places limited)

Saturday 8 November

Choral Club Harmonics

An exploration of harmonics and overtone singing as used in Stockhausen's piece *Stimmung*, for singers looking to try new vocal techniques.

The Front Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 12.30pm, Admission free

Saturday 8 November

Symposium: *Serialism*

Understanding serialism with key-note presentation by musicologist Richard Toop, followed by a discussion with author Morag Grant and Head of Contemporary Culture at Southbank Centre, Gillian Moore.

Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 2pm, £8

Sunday 9 November

Symposium: *Stockhausen & the Painters*

Examine the rich relationship between Stockhausen's music and visual arts with Jerome Kohl, author of *The Mutual Influence of Visual Art and Stockhausen's Music*, and a panel of guest commentators.

Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 2pm, £8