

## **A bewildering international hour.**

### **60x60 (2007 / International Mix)**

60 composers from around the world in 60 minutes, with video art. Jointly organized by Per Samuelsson (Association practiced user) & Robert Voisey [NY, USA]. IDKA Kulturkiosken  
Gefle Dagblad, Gävle, Sweden, March 25, 2009

Vox Novus is the name of an exciting New York based organization consisting of composers, musicians and music enthusiasts who want to support and spread new music.

Since 2003 they have organized the 60 x 60 project in which everyone is invited to participate. By advertising all over the world they collect sound and video-art that is later assembled into an hour long performance by 60 different composers and artists.

They have also collaborated with choreographers and arranged dance performances according to the same concept. The performances are recorded and released on CD's and DVD's that are later shown all over the world. The particular performance being shown here consists of music and sound collages by 60 different composers, energetically and poetically video-illustrated by the visual artist Zlatko Čosić.

A unique ingredient for this specific performance is that the sound is diffused into an 8 channel mix assembled by Per Samuelsson, Irene Sahlin and Olle Åberg, resulting in a mildly bewildering experience.

It begins by criss-crossing beams of water and a vibrating sensation of the sound of trains, followed by the reading of poetry, the sound of wind blowing to images of clouds reflected on the surface of water. The expressions are very varied with much "sound-art" of course, but also some passing pop song, catchy jazz, distorted opera, hip hop, loony TV-game music, dragging ambient grooves and heavy doom-metal.

Much of what we see and hear is introverted and enigmatic, sometimes almost claustrophobic, accompanied by images that rarely zoom out from extreme close-ups. To images of ants climbing on dead plants we hear the sound of pigs and sheep, interrupted by scratchy march music as if to imply that we are marching in a heard; the foundation of the mechanism of war. The policy of the US president to allow torture is accompanied by structures of jail-bars and cages.

Towards the end images and sound are weaved together to a union. The tempo becomes furiously fast even though there is at the same time a restful calm in the tinkering sounds of a small music box in a waltz by Chopin that fades out in scratches and white noise. A menacing boom rises above the surface of water, the pings from a deep sea radar reveals bizarre read-outs and we begin to question even what planet we really are on. The image of a ruin of an old house makes us once again feel that we are indeed on Earth, close to the rigid heart of destruction. The broken sound of a woman's voice talks about love in the red grass and in the hallway of an old cellar we hear a sickly cough.

Lastly sound-bites by former American presidents about power, patriotism; heavy hard words, and finally a quote by Thomas Jefferson: "Every generation need a new revolution".

**Camilla Dal**