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Thursday, 21 November 2019

### Music, robotics, AI: Recording the Lim Fantasy of Companionship for Piano and Orchestra

Labels: [news](#)

Having recently reviewed a disc of music inspired by particle physics [Matthew Whiteside's *Entangled*, see [my review](#)], on Tuesday 19 November 2019 I found myself listening to the studio recording of a new work for piano and orchestra inspired by robotics and artificial intelligence!

The *Lim Fantasy of Companionship for Piano and Orchestra* was commissioned by [Dr Susan Lim](#), a Singaporean surgeon who is a specialist in the field of transplantation, robotics and stem cell research. The work was written by the French composer Manu Martin, and arises out of Lim's ALAN project which aims to explore [disruptive technologies](#), the intersection between technology and humanity, in the form of robotics and AI, via music. The idea of engineering of the inanimate may ultimately produce companions previously unimagined. And that is *Fantasy of Companionship* which is depicted in Manu Martin's work.

French composer Manu Martin is best known for his work in television and radio, working alongside some major French composers. *Lim Fantasy of Companionship for Piano and Orchestra* is written for large forces, substantial orchestra along with voice, plus electric guitar, electric bass and drums.

I heard part of the recording at Abbey Road Studios, with Arthur Fagen (musical director of the Atlanta Opera) conducting the London Symphony Orchestra. The solo piano part was played by the Belgian-American pianist [Tedd Joselson](#), the role of the piano so much that of a concerto soloist as an important concertante part. The *Fantasy* is in six sections, which tell a clear story. Musically, Martin's piece draws inspiration from a companion work, [ALAN the Musical](#), and his background in writing for film was apparent in his fluent and engaging writing for large orchestral forces. It is always difficult judging a work from a snippet out of order, and it will be fascinating to see how the *Fantasy* builds when the recording is complete.

Dr Lim described the project thus:

*"In November 2019, I commissioned Manu Martin to write me a Fantasy conveying hope for the future companionship between the inanimate and a human; a Fantasy that would ... unfold and explain the journey of a soul from wild to captive, from wild to inanimate and with the addition of electric sounds, to herald the inanimate's bold futuristic step into a new world of companionship, biology, AI and robotics"*

As part of the same planned recording, Tedd Joselson is recording, next week, Rachmaninov's *Piano Concerto No. 2* with the Philharmonia Orchestra, and Grieg's *Piano Concerto* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, both conducted by Arthur Fagen.

Posted by [Planet Hugill](#) at [Thursday, November 21, 2019](#)



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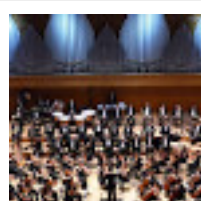
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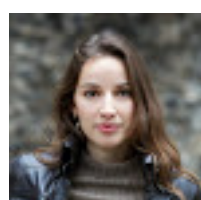


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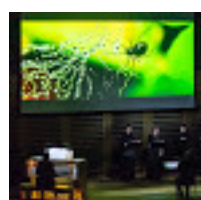
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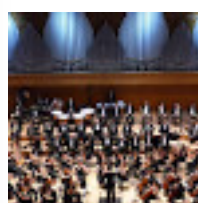
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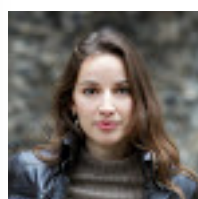
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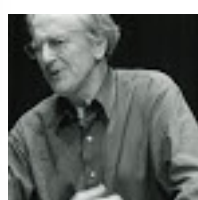
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Opera North's new production of Kurt Weill's Street Scene weaves the work's various stylistic strands  
whole and showcases the superb talents of the chorus members

Kurt Weill: Street Scene - Opera North (Photo Clive Barda) Kurt Weill Street Scene ; Gillene Butterfie  
Giselle Allen...



Jack Liebeck: Émile Sauret Professor of Violin, and Australian Festival of Chamber Music

Jack Liebeck (Photo Kaupo Kikkas) The violinist Jack Liebeck has been named as Émile Sauret Prof  
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