

Olga Witte – Trilogy of Modern Science

Olga Witte's concerto for prepared solo piano, *Trilogy of Modern Science*, was premiered in February 2023. The concerto is based on three modern physical theories; the special theory of relativity, the general theory of relativity/black holes and quantum mechanics. Olga Witte has been transforming physical theories into music for the last few years, and in this solo work she gathers various thoughts and sketches into a unified work. Witte uses ideas both from the physicist Russell Stannard's three children's books as well as other texts about the mentioned theories. The piece lasts around 40 minutes and is played both on the piano keys and inside the piano with hair from a violinist bow, felt sticks, fingers and other things. In performances, the music has captivated the audience, both jazz



Photo: Hreinn Gudlaugsson

connoisseurs and listeners with no interest in jazz. The music, like so much of what Witte writes, lies between experimental jazz, modern compositional music and the structures, principles and practices of Balinese gamelan and the surrounding cultural practice, an area where she has carried out long-term music ethnological fieldwork. This can also be seen in e.g. her debut concert from The Royal Academy of Music, Aarhus and on her album, *Olga Witte Organ Trio No 1 + 2* from 2021. *Trilogy of Modern Science* will be recorded and released in 2024.

Olga Witte is a composer, jazz pianist, church organist and music ethnologist. She holds an advanced postgraduate diploma from The Royal Academy of Music, she has a working grant from the State Arts Foundation, and in February 2024 received Denmark's oldest honorary jazz award, Gaffelprisen.

Listen to the concert here to selected excerpts from the concert here: https://soundcloud.com/olga-witte/trilogy-of-modern-science-excerpt-2/s-shRMSLI2zM4?si=27052f7a72de49dea00813a459cdd170&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing and here: https://soundcloud.com/olga-witte/trilogy-of-modern-science-excerpt-1/s-BUL35Zd0Xgn?si=43a035fc8bfc45288caaa380c1640c46&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

Listen to the whole concert here: https://soundcloud.com/olgawitte/trilogy-of-modern-science/s-Oe5AMz57nPU?si=90751f7e8f4d4c378525d9cdec2f520a&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

CV Olga Witte

Olga Witte (born 1978) is a composer, jazz pianist, church organist and music ethnologist. She has written experimental works for various instrumental combinations from solo to big bands and other larger ensembles. The works are performed at home and abroad. In December 2021, Olga Witte released her debut album *Olga Witte Organ Trio No 1 + 2*.



Foto: Hreinn Gudlaugsson

Witte has a background as a jazz pianist, is trained as a preliminary organist from Vestervig Church Music School (2007), cand.mag. in musicology and anthropology at Aarhus University (2009) with a focus on Balinese gamelan, as well as a trained soloist composer from Royal Academy of Music, Aarhus (2023), where she has particularly worked with the integration of experimental jazz, modern compositional music and practices, principles and structures from Balinese gamelan. She has received

Selected quotes about Olga Witte

"Olga's commitment, drive and curiosity have taken both her and jazz far and wide. She is one of today's musicians and arrangers who are bringing jazz forward." (Motivation for giving her the honorary award, Gaffelprisen, February 2024)

"When Olga Witte takes control and the music becomes more composed than improvised, a crew of two winds and pipe organ can perform wonders." (Seismograf, January 2022)

"Olga Witte has created her very own and deeply original musical language. She is so deep inside the music that it merges in a wonderfully logical way. It's wild and mild - and worth exploring in." (Jazznyt, February 2022)

"The work really wants its listener, and you are embraced by the music's sensibility, necessity and warmth. The concert space is utilized to the maximum and the time aspect is used as an important tool in a mature way, which shows a great sense of form. In the work, improvisation, variation in the frequency ranges and dynamics are used to hold the listener and lead the music forward in a captivating and enveloping experience." (From her advanced postgraduate diploma, examiner and censors Jens Christian "Chappe" Jensen, Hannah Schneider, Thommy Andersson, January 2023.)

"The woman with the largest instrument of the day had composed *Onkel Alberts Rumtid*, inspired by a children's book of the same name [The time and space of uncle Albert by Russell Stannard] and his theory of relativity. And here the hymn dust was seriously blown out of the organ pipes in a frighteningly violent intro. One imagined the sound of the creation of the world, followed by Vogel's alto sax, which as a fresh sprout in the silence after chaos symbolized the origin of life. Kim Kristensen joined in with something that sounded like a Moog, and together they all breathed a final sigh of relief." (Jazzfest.dk, July 2021)

"Olga Witte has managed to create ground-breaking music, which in intensity, originality and musically in a superior style is a unique experience rarely seen - and heard." (Jørgen Boytler (priest in the Moravian Church in Christiansfeld, Denmark) about the piece commissioned to the town's 250 years' anniversary, August 2023)