

HYPERIUMmusic presents

SUSAN OSWELL



• **COMPOSER** •

SUSAN OSWELL, Composer

Susan Oswell was born in 1955 in England. She studied dance, drama and music at the Arts Educational Schools in Tring and London and was engaged with the Iranian National Ballet in Teheran, Art Theatre Ballet in Paris and the Bonn Ballet Company before founding the internationally renowned Laokoon Dance Group with the choreographer Rosamund Gilmore and the composer Franz Hummel in 1979.

In 1984, she was named best actress of the year by the magazine "Theater Heute".

In 1994, Maya Plissetskaya invited Oswell to represent Great Britain on the jury of the International Ballet Competition in St. Petersburg.

Susan Oswell studied composition with Franz Hummel and has, since 1995, made a name for herself as a composer. Many of her chamber music works have been performed in Germany, Austria, Belgium, Finland, Hungary and the USA.

Her first orchestral work "Eclipse" for piano and orchestra was performed in the open air during the eclipse of the sun on 11th August 1999 by the Moscow Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Alexei Kornienko.

"Ulysses" for chamber ensemble was premiered in Halle in 2002, conducted by Thomas Müller. "Tango on the Rocks" for orchestra was performed for the first time by the Mittelsächsische Philharmonie in Freiburg, conducted by Jan Michael Horstmann, and has recently been released as CD.

The Georgian String Quartet has taken her String Quartet "Endenich", that reflects Schumann themes, into its repertoire.

On February 14th 2004, her work "The Wake" for dancer and orchestra was premiered in Ingolstadt by the Georgian Chamber Orchestra conducted by Markus Poschner. The soloist was Beate Vollack from the Bavarian State Ballet Company. Susan Oswell created both the music and the choreography for this unusual project.

In 2005 her choreography to Joseph Haydn's "Seven last words" with Intermezzi composed by Oswell was performed by the ballet company in Győr, Hungary.

Two new compositions were premiered in Munich in 2007: "In den Bergen" for string orchestra, harpsichord and three singers (in an music theatre work planned and directed by Sabine Bergk in the "Herz-Jesu Church") and "Sonate Nr. 2 for

cello and piano with a soprano solo” that was performed by Alexander Suleiman (cello), Bart Berzonsky (piano) and Beate Kiechle (soprano) in the first “Salon der Gegenwart”.

Oswell has written two operas: “The Yellow Wallpaper” (Libretto: Rosamund Gilmore, based on the short story by Charlotte Perkins Gilman) and the chamber opera “Zelda” (Libretto: Jutta Georg using letters of Zelda und F. Scott Fitzgerald).

At the moment she is writing a song cycle “100 wasser” to poems by Sabine Bergk and “Variations on Pomp and Circumstance” for the violinist Elena Denisova.

Susan Oswell also works as a choreographer and director. In 2009 she directed Franz Hummel’s opera “Fouché” for the European Capital of Culture Festival “Linz 09” in Austria.

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