

# Ülo Krigul

## Vesi ise (Water Is)

for mixed choir and phonogram (2015) Text: Ilmar Laaban's sound poetry

### Ülo Krigul:

On the most elementary level this composition deals with the meeting between the earth and water. The pitch of the composition is based on the three main frequencies of the Earth – day (G), year (Cis) and era (F) – and the text springs from the innards of water. The presence of the earth was there from the very beginning, since I started composing and recorded the phonogram with gongs that were tuned as specified above. The choral part, actually, is quite a precise transcription of the freely improvised gongs recording.

The theme of water came to be added later on, when I was looking for a text for my half-completed music. "Vesi ise" takes its text and title from the late Ilmar Laaban's eponymous work of sound-poetry. What made me decide in favour of Laaban's work was the compositional similarity, that state of suspense or in-between-ness: although there certainly is a peculiar logic to its progression, the message is rather more guided by the perceptions of sound. Arranging the text for choir, I tried to follow Laaban's logic – the mixed semantics emerging from the sounded syllables.

The choir part, however, utilises just the very first segment of the original text. For their sound advice regarding the usage of Laaban's text I want to thank Jaan Malin and Isidor Laaban.

The gongs were recorded in Allikamaja, in Esna.

As for its origin, nature and perhaps purpose, "Vesi ise" positions itself in an intermediate sphere between meditational practices and concert music.

**Ülo Krigul** (1978) studied composition and tuba performance at Tallinn's Music High School and composition at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre under Raimo Kangro and René Eespere, obtaining his master's degree in composition with Tõnu Kõrvits in 2016. In 2004/2005, Krigul furthered his training under Prof. Detlev Müller-Siemens at Vienna University of Music and Performing Arts. Krigul is also an appreciated organizer of various music events on the Estonian music scene. He belonged to the staff of the international jazz festival Jazzkaar and is a founder of the Autumn Festival at the Estonian Academy of Music. He has also been engaged as the producer and one of the artistic directors of the Estonian Music Days Festival.

Krigul has been a keyboard player and arranger in many rock, jazz and experimental ensembles.

Ülo Krigul has worked with a wide range of genres – from large symphonic works to electroacoustic installations as well as theatre and film music. His orchestral piece "JenZeits" was awarded the 2005 Europäische Komponistenpreis at the young.euro.classic festival in Berlin and received the first prize at the International Rostrum of Composers in Paris in the category of composers under 30 years in 2007.

His work "Swan Bone City" for voice and symphony orchestra was awarded the Composer Prize of the 2012 Estonian Music Days Festival and Prince Pierre of Monaco Music Composition Prize Young Musicians Favorite Choice in 2014. His opera "Swan Bone City" will be premiered in summer 2016.

Krigul has been active as film-music composer. The scores for Veiko Õunpuu's films have gathered tens of prizes and screenings at festivals around the world, including "Orriszonti Prize" at the Venice Film Festival (for the feature film "The Temptation of St. Tony") and the Best Original Music from Festival Premiers Plans d'ANGERS (for "Autumn Ball").

He has been commissioned/performed by, among others, Phoenix Ensemble (Switzerland), Ensemble U: (Estonia), Ensemble Resonabilis (Estonia), New Paths Ensemble (USA), Orchestruptopica (Portugal), Estonian State Symphony Orchestra, Estonian Music Academy Symphony Orchestra, Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, Quasar Quartet (Canada), Tallinn Chamber Orchestra with Risto Joost, Pärnu Festival Orchestra with Paavo Järvi.

Ülo Krigul's music has been performed at the festivals of new music in Estonia as well as in Germany, Austria, Latvia, the Czech Republic, the Ukraine and other countries. His works have been premiered in Berlin Konzerthaus, in Wien Musikverein, in Helsinki Finaldiatalo, in Lissabon Gulbenkian Arts Centre, in New York City University Hall, in the countryside in Czech Republic, on the crossroads of Rütülli Street in Pärnu (a nice seaside town in Estonia), in a former airport of waterplanes in Tallinn and many other places.

In 2005, Ülo Krigul received the Best Debut Award of the Estonian National Culture Foundation. In 2006, he was awarded the Heino Eller Music Prize and the Annual Prize of the Endowment for Music of the Cultural Endowment of Estonia for artistic direction of the Estonian Music Days Festival and for promoting and Estonian music. In 2007, Krigul was awarded the Annual Prize of the Cultural Endowment of Estonia as member of the artistic team of the feature film Autumn Ball, and also the Annual Prize of Endowment for Music of Culture Endowment of Estonia.

The nature of Ülo Krigul's musical expression is lively and dynamic. His style includes a broad spectrum of musical means, influences from jazz, post-minimalism and sonoristics among them. The imagery of Krigul's music is rich in playful contrasts. At the time his major compositional interest is "to treat chords and the relationship between them as geometric figures or graphic projections".

[www.ulokrigul.com](http://www.ulokrigul.com)

Performed by  
**Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir,**  
conductor **Kaspars Putniņš.**  
[www.epcc.ee](http://www.epcc.ee)

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